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CONGRESS REPORT SEEN REFLECTING USSR INF STANCE

LD142235 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2010 GMT 14 Aug 83

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Gennadiy Vedenyapin]

[Text] A new report by the U.S. Congress on nuclear missile weapons has once again cast doubt on the arguments of the NATO countries, which are refusing to take into account the British and French nuclear armaments in the talks on reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe. Under discussion are the 162 units of nuclear weapons, which, the NATO leadership asserts, should not be included in the bloc's total arsenal on the basis that they allegedly fall exclusively under the sovereignty of Britain and France and are intended only for their own self-defense.

But this is the conclusion to which the author of the U.S. Congress report comes: First, the 64 nuclear missiles on British submarines are under the control of the British authorities only in peacetime. In the event of war they would be transferred to the authority of the NATO Supreme Command and targeted in accordance with the plans of the U.S. Strategic Command; second, as far as the French nuclear missiles are concerned -- and there are 80 of them on submarines and 18 at ground installations -- although France has left the NATO military organization its signature on the 1949 agreement remains valid, which obliges Paris -- and also London, by the way -- to operate in concert with its allies.

Thus the facts set out in the report are evident: It is precisely from these facts that our country proceeds at the Geneva talks, which Washington is stubbornly blocking with its lack of desire to reckon with the true state of affairs.

ARMS CONTROL AGENCY 'RENOVATION' EFFORTS NOTED

LD111208 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Washington August 11 TASS -- President Reagan's decision to request supplementary congressional appropriations to finance the activity of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency was announced here yesterday with great pomp.

The statement, issued by the White House, emphasizes particularly that this step was allegedly called upon to help the Agency discharging its important mission, and therefore must be regarded as reaffirmation of the resolve of Washington to press for a reduction in nuclear arms.

Local observers point out that those insignificant resources the administration plans in supplementary appropriations are obviously inadequate for the Agency to solve its acute financial and personnel problems. In the two and a half years of the Reagan administration the budget of the Agency has been cut to such an extent that its appropriations today are less than those for...military bands in the country. The number of officials of the Agency has been cut almost by a quarter and about one-third of the leading posts are either vacant or filled by temporary personnel.

The show of "renovation" of the Agency, staged yesterday, is intended to serve short-term objectives, mainly President Reagan's electoral plans, as observers believe he seeks re-election for a second term and for this purpose tries to appear as a "peace-maker."

ISRAELYAN PROPOSES SPACE WEAPONS BAN, CONFERENCE

LD141504 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] Geneva August 14 TASS -- The Soviet Union consistently comes out in favour of elaborating international legal norms protecting outer space from an arms race. As far back as in 1958, shortly after the launching of the first Soviet artificial satellite, the USSR put forward a proposal envisaging the prohibition of the use of outer space for military purposes on the basis of strict observance of the principle of equal security and of prevention of any of the sides from gaining military advantages. This stand has been once again convincingly shown here now at the Committee on Disarmament during the discussion of the question of preventing an arms race in outer space.

"The Soviet Union suggested that the states assume an obligation not to launch into a near-earth orbit objects with weapons of any kind, not to install such weapons on celestial bodies, and not to deploy them in outer space in any other way," said V.L. Israelyan, the head of the delegation of the USSR.

"According to the Soviet draft, parties to such a treaty will use space objects, guided by the principles of international law and the U.N. Charter, and in the interests of peace, security and cooperation". The USSR is prepared to go farther than that, the speaker went on to say, namely, to agree on a ban on the use of force in general both in outer space and from outer space against the earth. The USSR's proposal on holding a meeting of Soviet and American scientists and specialists to discuss possible consequences of the creation of a large-scale anti-missile defence system in space remains in force, too.

D. Erdembileg, representative of Mongolia, emphasized that the assertion that there are allegedly no armaments intended for a use in outer space or from space is the principal "argument" of the USA and other Western countries. Meanwhile, he went on to say, the creation of an anti-satellite complex is already nearing completion in the USA and the development of laser and beam space weapons is underway. By 1988 the Pentagon proposes to increase more than 12-fold appropriations for these programmes alone.

Julio Cesar Carazalez (Argentina) expressed serious concern over the ominous prospect of outer space's becoming a potential theatre of operations.

Regarding it as one of the most important tasks to prevent militarisation of outer space, an overwhelming majority of the committee's member states firmly support the Soviet Union's constructive initiatives. They are calling on the Committee on Disarmament immediately to start concrete negotiations on this matter, taking it into consideration, in particular, that the Soviet draft treaty banning the deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space has been submitted to this forum for consideration.

However, just like on many other questions of disarmament, the delegations of the USA and its NATO partners systematically block a solution to this problem which is of importance to mankind. U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced on March 23, this year, that the administration already decided to start the development of a programme aimed at turning outer space into one of the arenas of the arms race. That step by the U.S. Administration has been strongly condemned at the Committee on Disarmament.

EUROMISSILES TO INVOKE 'APPROPRIATE' RESPONSE

LD150110 Moscow in English to North America 0105 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Here is a commentary by our military observer Aleksey Vasilyev on the continued preparations for the deployment in Western Europe of new American nuclear missiles:

Leaving the political aspects of the problem aside and considering only its military aspects, one has to admit that the addition of American cruise and Pershing II nuclear missiles to the NATO nuclear arsenal in Europe would break up the present parity of forces and give the West a military advantage. At the moment, the nuclear weapons of the United States, Britain, and France are zeroed in on targets in the Soviet Union and its allies in Europe. Under NATO agreements, these Western nations have assumed unequivocal obligations with regard to the use of these weapons.

It is quite understandable that in the circumstances, and in keeping with justice and the security interests of the Soviet Union, this country must have a potential equal to the NATO potential aimed against it and its allies, because it is the only country that confronts the NATO alliance. This is the starting point of Soviet proposals, which provide for dramatic reductions in nuclear weapons on both sides, and for maintaining parity. The Soviet Union is prepared to retain as many medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe as are held by Britain and France. The Soviet Union is also prepared to reduce the number of aircraft [as heard] in Europe to 138 for each side. It is also prepared to reduce the warheads on missiles and aircraft on each side to equal numbers. In other words, the Soviet Union does not want to have a single missile, aircraft, or warhead more than is held by NATO after reductions in Europe have been completed. Washington is, however, bent on building up the NATO potential so as to introduce American missiles in that equation. American leaders believe that what NATO now holds in Europe is not enough. According to them there are not enough aircraft deployed on land or on aircraft carriers. There are not enough nuclear missiles, artillery pieces, and mines and there are not enough nuclear-armed submarines. They hold that they need new weapons capable of instantly hitting Soviet territory. The American stance at the talks simply blocks them and makes the world situation extremely dangerous.

If the United States does not change its stance at the Geneva talks and the deployment of cruise missiles in Italy, Britain, West Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands and Pershing II's in Federal Germany does go ahead, military parity in Europe and throughout the world will be upset. Europe would become the starting point for a first strategic strike at Soviet territory. The Soviet Union will take appropriate action to restore the balance by deploying additional weapons and counter-balancing the American missiles in Europe. It will also take response measures with American territory in mind.

American plans to deploy new nuclear missiles in Europe are aimed at anything but reducing nuclear armaments or lowering the level of nuclear confrontation. Instead of a parity of forces at a lower level another round of the arms race in nuclear weapons will follow, started by Washington. The new round of the arms race may have deadly consequences, and that is why the public movement against the deployment of American nuclear missiles is steadily gaining momentum in Europe and the United States. The nuclear fuse should be removed from Europe, where two world wars have already started in this century. The new round of the arms race which Washington is bent on launching should be reliably blocked.

U.S. REFUSAL TO NUCLEAR 'FIRST USE' BAN RAPPED

LD111603 Moscow TASS in English 1530 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS -- TASS military commentator Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The Soviet Union's commitment not to be the first to use nuclear arms is a truly historic milestone in the struggle to avert nuclear war in the world. This decision of the USSR is not merely a statement but an action determining the practical activity of the Soviet Armed Forces and serving the consolidation of the material mainstays of international security.

It was by no means simple for the Soviet Union to assume the unilateral commitment not to be the first to use nuclear arms in conditions of the growing militarisation of the foreign policy of the United States and Washington's open course of attaining military superiority which is understood solely as the creation of a potential for delivering a first disarming strike at socialist countries, at the Soviet Union. This decision of the Soviet Government makes new, more rigorous and complex demands of raising the combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces, their technical equipment, the perfection of control and communication and the conditioning of personnel.

When adopting this historic decision the USSR soberly evaluated both the adventuristic nature of the Pentagon's present military doctrines and the possibilities of the strategic offensive forces of the United States. The Soviet Union adopted this responsible decision proceeding from the premise that peace today is an asset of the whole of mankind while nuclear war is a catastrophe for all people.

To this day Washington flatly refuses to follow the USSR'S example and adopt the commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. It explains this stand by saying first of all that the threat of nuclear war unleashed by NATO countries is supposedly more effective than any treaty and helps contain aggression.

The American propaganda thesis about "averting" conflicts by means of threats to unleash nuclear war is extremely dangerous because it inevitably brings about the creation of ever more sophisticated systems for the first disarming strike, such as the MX intercontinental missile, the Trident-2 submarine-launched missile and the Pershing II missiles that sharply destabilise the military-political situation and enhance the appearance of situations when the development of events will defy control by people and when vitally important decisions will have to be taken within a matter of minutes.

It is difficult not to agree with the retired American Admiral Noel Bayler who recently stated that the adoption by the United States as well of the commitement not to be the first to use nuclear arms would have real consequences and would not be simply a "paper" agreement because such a commitement would require new decisions on arms intended for deployment, on the deployment of nuclear arms itself and on military doctrines and the nature of military exercises.

Indeed, it would be enough for the United States and the other nuclear powers to adopt a commitment similar to the Soviet one and a tremendous stride would be made toward abolishing nuclear war altogether.

Besides everything else, the strategists in Washington should remember that considering the present state of the warning systems and the combat readiness of the Soviet strategic nulcear arms, the Unites States will not be able to carry out a disarming strike at the socialist countries. The aggressor will not escape an all-destroying reply strike. Nuclear aggression will be tantamount to suicide.

NATO DOCTRINE MAKES WAR IN EUROPE 'DESIRABLE'

LD121734 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in German 2000 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] A representative of the staff of the supreme commander of the Joint NATO Forces in Europe has announced that the Autumn Forge '83 maneuvers will begin on 2 September. Over 250,000 soldiers and officers, hundreds of aircraft, dozens of fighting ships and other war technology will be involved. This largest military demonstration is composed of a whole series of actions in Western Europe, from Norway to the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. But NATO's command plans to carry out the main part of the maneuvers and exercises in Central Europe, that is, on FRG territory. It is here that the United States is to bring in large troops contingents [words indistinct], to reinforce the European group of U.S. troops.

The report states that working out elements of the new NATO military doctrine, known as (?island) battle, that is, land and air battle, is the main aim of this forthcoming maneuver. This strategic doctrine was outlined by the commander for military training and [word indistinct] in the U.S. Army. Last December the NATO defense ministers accepted this doctrine and it became an official concept for the conduct of warfare on the European Continent. As soon as the doctrine received official status, U.S. propaganda and NATO information organizations started to argue that this new doctrine allegedly increased significantly the chances for survival of the peoples of Western Europe in the event that war broke out between East and West. To back up these so-called arguments, reference is made to statements by the Supreme Commander of the joint NATO forces in Europe, U.S. General Rogers, to the effect that the new doctrine is supposed to be capable of helping Europe to defend itself without nuclear weapons, thanks to the perfection of conventional weapons. In other words, attempts are being made to persuade the inhabitants of Western Europe that the (?island) battle doctrine in effect excludes the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons and thus inhabitants would not have to suffer the effects of radiation if war were to break out in Europe.

In this way attempts are being made to accustom West European public opinion to the idea that war on the continent might be a possibility.

A further aim is to stifle the anti-war movement, which is a source of serious cencern to those who determine NATO's political course. However, the facts show that the new doctrine not only foresees a nuclear war, but also that, under certain circumstances, it could move from the category of probability to the category of desirability.

One may glance at documents that outline the basic elements of this new NATO doctrine, including the service regulations of the U.S. Army, FM100-5. The document states that the aggressor must try to intensify military actions, break down the opponent's defenses, prevent it from taking counteraction, not allowing it to recover from the first strike. It also explains that by first strike it means preventive use of all available arms. The document stresses that in dealing such a first strike, both nuclear and chemical weapons can be (?employed). Thus the new doctrine in effect sanctions the use of weapons of mass destruction by NATO troops.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD141545 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0515 GMT 14 Aug 83

["International Observers Roundtable" program, with Spartak Ivanovich Beglov, NOVOSTI political observer; Rudolf Georgiyevich Kolchanov, TRUD deputy chief editor; and Aleksandr Vladimirovich Zholkver, political observer for central television and All-Union Radio]

[Text] [Zholkver] Good day, comrades. On all continents last week it was a week of action for banning nuclear weapons. As you know, the time chosen for holding such a week was not accidental. In the first days of August 1945, nuclear weapons were used for the first time in the history of mankind. U.S. atomic bombs incinerated the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Now, 38 years later, all this is certainly not mere history. It is not just that over 300,000 Japanese are still suffering from the consequences of the atomic explosions. The point is that in recent years the threat of a devastating nuclear war has greatly increased. It is no coincidence that the participants in the international conference for banning nuclear weapons, which was held in Nagasaki last week, protested specific actions by the United States, as well as the arrival of U.S. nuclear weapon-carrying warships at the port of Sasebo, which is not far from Nagasaki.

Meanwhile, in West Europe, in many cities of the FRG, in the English village of Greenham Common, and at the small Sicilian town of Comiso, thousands of people took to the streets to protest plans to deploy new U.S. nuclear missiles in these areas. I must point out that the slogans of these demonstrators, proclaiming that Europe must not repeat the tragedy of Hiroshima, must not become a Euroshima, as they now say, are more than topical.

As you know, comrades, large antiwar demonstrations were also held in our country last week. The miners of the Donbass held a labor vigil and donated the money thus earned to the Soviet peace fund. Soviet sportsmen took part in a cycle peace rally, delivering an appeal calling for the prevention of nuclear war to the UN secretary general. One of the events of last week's week of action was the screening on Soviet television of a debate recorded during the recent world congress of physicians for the prevention of nuclear war. One of the participants in this debate was the American, Admiral Gayler, former commander-in-chief of U.S. Armed Forces in the Pacific Ocean zone. He visited Hiroshima 6 days after the atomic bomb was dropped. Later he was present at other U.S. atomic weapon tests. I have seen these things detonated, the admiral remarked. The more one gets to know about this weapon, the less one likes it, he added. Many participants in the movement for freezing and banning atomic weapons in the United States seem to think this way now.

'Aggressive' U.S. Policy

But, in my view, the U.S. admiral made another important point. He spoke about how dangerous it was, as he put it, to fish in muddy waters, as the United States is now doing in Central America and the Near East. As far as Central America is concerned, we know that large-scale maneuvers have now begun there, in Honduras. The maneuvers embrace virtually the entire territory of the country. It seems to me, Spartak Ivanovich, that matters are not confined just to these maneuvers and, generally speaking, to Honduras alone.

[Beglov] Well, our listeners already know that last week, in the chain of events in the region, a coup took place in one of the countries that has long been within the orbit of Washington's policy. I have in mind Guatemala, a country which borders on Honduras and other Central American countries. Against the general background of the military campaign which Washington has now launched against the independent countries of Central America, the coup in Guatemala is not just another piece of news, as it were.

It is, in its own way, both a symbol and an important component in this campaign. It took place in the very country which symbolizes U.S. policy in this region. If I may use the terminology of builders, it is, as it were, a standard or base model for the actions of Washington, which the U.S. leadership has been putting into practice for decades at various stages of its expansion in Latin America. The activation of this model, through the coup, sheds light on many aspects of the U.S. Administration's current interests and designs, since they are inseparably linked with the past. All the bloody prehistory of U.S. interference in the affairs of this region directly prepared the way for them.

As our listeners know, three periods can be clearly seen in this history. First is the last century, when the Americans simply appropriated lands belonging to the Latin Americans. During that period lands belonging to Mexico -- now known as the states of Texas, California, Arizona, and New Mexico -- became part of the United States. Then, toward the end of the century came Cuba's and Puerto Rico's turns, as they were won, so to speak, from Spain.

The next period was the beginning, roughly the first half, of our century. This was the period of the "big stick" when the U.S. leadership meted out justice and punishment, so to speak, in literally every country of Latin America.

It interfered in the affairs of these countries on any pretext, staged landings, and exported counterrevolution. Such interventions took place, for example, in Mexico in the period 1910-20. They happened four or five times in Guatemala. They also happened several times in Honduras. The same thing can be said about dozens of similar landings or interventions in other countries of Latin America.

Finally a period arrived which may be described as the present period, the postwar period. During this period this policy of interference, expansion, and exploitation of the Latin American peoples has been carried out under the slogan of the struggle against communism, in which this camouflage, this smokescreen of the Soviet and the Cuban threat, and so forth, has been used. Guatemala has a role and place in this history precisely because it was events in that country which marked the beginning of the present period. I remind you that the 1944 Guatemalan revolution, which brought the revolutionary action party led by Arbenz to power, initiated such a profound process of democratic reforms that in the eyes of the U.S. monopolies it threatened the very foundations of their domination in this region. Ultimately, in June 1954 it led to U.S. military intervention, by means of mercenary troops, from the territory of Honduras -- and I stress that....

[Zholkver, interrupting] That was also from Honduras.

[Beglov] Yes, we need to stress this sinister coincidence with Washington's current scenario. It was precisely from the territory of Honduras that military intervention in Guatemala, organized by the CIA, was carried out. It led to the overthrow of Arbenz and the installation of a dictatorship of henchmen of U.S. imperialism and reaction. Since then several dictators have been replaced, and U.S. politicians either knew about these changes or directly initiated them. Despite harsh and, I would say, bloody repression the resistance of the Guatemalan people has not declined in all these years. Instead it has increased. The existence of five regions under the control of partisans, in the southwest of the country particularly, is weighty proof of how widespread the protest and the movement of the people against the U.S. henchmen is.

President Montt, who has just been overthrown, was one of the executors of this so-called program. But by all accounts Washington had begun to doubt his reliability in view of the fact that he had started to make certain vague promises about reform.

[Zholkver] He was probably forced to make such promises in view of the national situation.

[Beglov] Yes, of course. He flirted with a religious minority. But I think the most important thing is that he was not burning with, I would say, great enthusiasm to participate in the military intervention against Nicaragua. The hour of his overthrow became inevitable at precisely the time when the plan for a broad interventionist campaign by the United States in Latin America was approved. In the interests of its implementation it became necessary to test the mainstays of the U.S. system of interferenc and domination including, not least, that so-called Guatemalan model. But as far as the events connected with the coup were themselves concerned, it was carried out very simply. Judging by reports, all the participants and organizers of it reached final agreement amor themselves on an appropriate plan of action on 6 August. It so happens that on 6 August, that is, the eve of the coup, the new dictator, Mejia, who was then Guatemalan defense minister, a post which he now retains in addition to his other duties, was on the aircraft carrier "Ranger," that selfsame aircraft carrier which is an integral part of this interventionist armada. There he met with U.S. military commanders and the defense minsters of Honduras and El Salvador. The following day, 7 August, when all those events took place in the capital of Guatemala itself, the U.S. assistant military attache was at the presidential palace with a portable radio transmitter and....

[Zholkver, interrupting] For a long time the Americans....

[Beglov, interrupting] ...the ambassador was quickly found, and they were able to coordinate properly the actions to implement this U.S. scenario.

For all those who take stock of what has happened, there is nothing left to do now except to draw the conclusion, as the British GUARDIAN newspaper did the other day, that the new head of the regime in the country is very important for the White House because he has promised to carry out a more hardline policy toward Nicaragua. The new president of Guatemala has declared his intention to play a more active role in attempts to overthrow the Sandinista government. In private talks with a representative of the U.S. Embassy, Gen Mejia stressed that Guatemalan troops will support Honduras in the event of hostilities breaking out between that country and Nicaragua.

[Kolchanov] Spartak Ivanovich, I think we have more than enough facts to draw the conclusion that one of the main targets of the present aggressive U.S. foreign policy is Central America. Listening to your account, I immediately recalled the events in Vietnam, and my mind went back to what is now happening in the Near East. If we compare these three regions, situated far from one another, and the events -- the Vietnamese events are, so to speak, also distant in time from what is now happening in Central America and Near East -- we come nonetheless to the conclusion that this is, after all, one and the same thing: It is still the same aggressive, adventurist, imperialist policy from Washington, and the same impudent, grasping, aggressive methods of implementing that foreign policy.

U.S. Chad, Mideast Actions

[Zholkver] It seems to me that the links can be traced further in the case of the events in Chad too. You mentioned the Vietnamese variant. LE MATIN writes that the conflict in Vietnam and the present conflict in Chad also have something in common in their course of development, even [words indistinct]. First comes the dispatch of weapons, then military advisers.

Just look at this: President Reagan recently spoke. At his last press conference he stated that the United States did not intend to intervene in Chad. It did not intend to. It is already engaged in such intervention. More than actively engaged. And escalation is proceeding. Incidentally, that expression "escalation" has also come into use since the Vietnam war.

This cranking up of the military machine is also typical of the actions in the Near East, and a role of no small importance in this is played, so to speak, by diplomatic activity, if we may call it that. Take a look: McFarlane, the new U.S. envoy who has replaced Philip Habib, is completing his Near East future. Of course, he began his tour in Israel. There was a 90-minute conversation, the agencies reported, with Begin and his foreign minister Shamir, after which McFarlane declared that he now had hopes of making progress with the problems of the Near East, and that he had allegedly heard some extremely constructive proposals, and after that he started conveying these proposals for export, so to speak, around the countries of the Near East. As you know, he was in Syria and Lebanon. What does all this amount to? To a demand, in effect, for a consolidation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, and a demand for the withdrawal from Lebanon of the Syrian forces forming part of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in this region. Here it is interesting that the Israeli occupation troops and the Syrian troops, who are there by a decision of the Arab League to maintain peace in the region, are placed on the same level.

[Kolchanov] The Americans also want to exploit the redeployment of Israeli forces for their own interests: Withdrawing Israeli units and installing the so-called multinational force, whose backbone consists of subunits of the U.S. Army.

[Zholkver] An analagous process is taking place in Chad as well, and I do not know how far it will go. It first began in collaboration with the old colonial power in the region, France. Incidentally, at his last press conference, Reagan openly stated that Chad is, supposedly, France's sphere of influence. First of all, Chad is an independent state. The days of the French empire in Africa are over too, so neither does this wholly correspond with reality. Nor does the statement that, allegedly, U.S. intervention is not taking place correspond with reality. It was taking place first of all hand in hand with French intervention. It is continuing to devleop and, in the scale of transportation of heavy weapons and cooperation, in the transportation of Zairian troops there, probably already exceeds the level of French activity in this region. Incidentally, it is curious that in one region, here in central Africa, U.S. imperialism is collaborating with French imperialism. In other regions, such as the Persian Gulf, the previous colonial powers are being energetically squeezed out.

Yes, I believe that such cooperation-cum-rivalry is typical of the policy of imperialism: on the one hand divide and rule, and on the other cooperation and competition between the imperialist powers.

[Beglov] As far as the element of rivalry is concerned, it is naturally taking place in the case of Chad. I am thinking of rivalry between the United States and France. It is clear that so-called French imperial interests are once again the motivating force. It is not merely a wish to play up to the Americans. There are also French monopolistic interests since the French monopolies really have a large stake here. For example, more than 350,000 French nationals, mainly business representatives, still live in these countries. That is, not only in Chad, but in the Central African Republic and all France's former colonies. Almost half the industry in this region belongs to the French, so evidently certain selfish French interests had their say at the moment when these decisions were made in Paris.

Propaganda Activity

[Kolchanov] Vietnam, Central America, Latin America, Africa, the Near East -- I would like to note another typical feature in the action of U.S. imperialism which is identical in all these regions. That is, the great propagandist-ideological support lent to all these barbaric and aggressive acts. I recall that quite recently in connection with the Near East a noteworthy phenomenon could be seen.

The Arabs and Israelis, who have been doggedly fighting each other for entire generations, are now looking to the United States as the only great power capable of helping them find a way out of this deadlock. This special trust for the United States, Shultz said, is the main reason for the success we have achieved.

I am sure I do not know by what drugs one has to be influenced to engage in such wishful thinking, but as for successes achieved by the United States in the Near East, these are the barbaric attacks on peaceful Lebanese towns and villages in the summer of 1981, and the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in 1982. The U.S. Administration also has to its credit the monstrous butchery of the Palestinians at Sabra and Shatila. We may also recall the bombing of the nuclear center in Iraq, the endless flights by Israeli spy planes in Saudi Arabian airspace, and many other actions; the main result is that the region remains troubled, the fire is not dying down. Should this be counted among the successes of the U.S. foreign policy course?

[Zholkver] You were speaking of the propaganda support, Rudolf Georgiyevich, in the Near East, and a similar example, I would say, of excessively energetic propaganda support has now come from Central America, from Honduras, where U.S. military maneuvers are now underway. One report by a Western agency asserts that the U.S. troops in Honduras are engaged, if you please, in resolving social and economic problems. The report says that the U.S. troops are supposedly rendering medical aid to the population and are carrying out construction work. Well, as for the construction work, I do not deny that U.S. sappers are building bridges for tanks and heavy army trucks, widening runways so that military transport aircraft can use them -- never mind that this has nothing to do with the development of the Honduran economy. But as for U.S. medical aid, here it is harder to go into detail. No one can dispute that such aid would be more than timely for Honduras, for this is one of the poorest countries in Central America. According to UN data two-thirds of the population live in conditions of extreme poverty. More than half of those fit to work are unemployed, 60 percent are illiterate, a health service barely exists. Here is one fact: Approximately 130 in every 1,000 babies born die before reaching their first birthday. And who is to blame for all this?

You, Spartak Ivanovich, were talking about U.S. dominance in Central America, which has lasted many decades. In Honduras their monopolies hold sway. Not for nothing is Honduras called a banana republic. The notorious United Fruit Company makes profits by the export of Honduran bananas and keeps the country in poverty and colonial dependence. Those who do not wish to accept such a fate and struggle for their liberation are cruelly persecuted.

Recently U.S. news agencies reported the discovery of four secret cemeteries in Honduras, in which were buried numerous victims of mass repressions.

[Beglov] One of the results of the medical aid.

[Zholkver] I think this might be what they had in mind.

This, to my mind, is an excess of propaganda activity. Those who like holding forth about human rights can go even this far.

Disarmament Proposals, Stalls

Incidentally, when we speak of human rights the most important human right is the right to life, and this right is the one most threatened by plans to unleash a thermonuclear war. At the beginning we were talking about the very broad antiwar movement. It is taking place even now when an adjournment has been announced at the Geneva talks on limiting nuclear weapons in Europe and on strategic weapons.

In Europe close attention is naturally now being paid to what is happening during the so-called pause in Geneva. What are the two sides doing?

[Beglov] Geneva is on vacation: Who is doing what?

[Zholkver] Yes.

[Belgov] In the first place the U.S. propaganda machine is not relaxing. It has certainly not been given a summer vacation. This is the machine designed to guarantee the interests of the United States, or rather, those of its leaders, and the position held by those leaders at the talks in Geneva. In recent days all the influential papers in the United States, acting as one, have published articles about the so-called greater flexibility of the United States, allegedly demonstrated in the last stage of the negotiations.

[Zholkver] Probably the tone here was set by Rowny himself, chief of the U.S. delegation at the strategic arms talks. He held a press conference, had meetings with Reagan....

[Kolchanov, interrupting] The less they do, the more time they spend chatting about it, so the more they have been talking about this issue -- that's the old American way.

[Zholkver] He gave a long discourse there about flexibility, although one indiscreet journalist at the press conference asked him: You have been speaking about flexibility, but is it possible to reach agreement on intercontinental missiles if we start manufacturing and deploying the MX missiles?

[Kolchanov] A logical question.

[Zholkver] That really is a question which is more than justified. How can there possibly be talk of a reduction if a program has been adopted for the deployment of the new MX missiles -- in fact, one of the new types of U.S. strategic weaponry -- plus the new Midgetman missiles, plus the production of neutron weapons and the new chemical weapons, the so-called binary weapons?

[Kolchanov] In this business, as distinct from Geneva, the Americans are declaring no recess.

[Zholkver] There is enormous activity, and this is the interesting thing, comrades: There is the same, or even greater activity by the major U.S. companies involved in manufacturing these weapons. Here is an interesting example: There is a company in America called Helionetics which produces laser-emitting equipment. Until recently it was not a very large company, but as soon as Washington announced its program for deploying laser weapons in space the shares in that company increased 60-fold. Or take the Northrop Corporation, a company which produces the computers for cruise missiles. The company, it must be said, was well-known before that, too. A Californian company connected for many years with Reagan's so-called California mafia from that period, it was given the contract to manufacture minicomputers for the cruise missiles and immediately its shares rose, too, by a factor of 16. Such is the direct effect on those who have an interst in the arms race, who truly declare no recess, and who constantly whip up the arms race in order to secure the maximum profits. But it is interesting that while there is this very great activity of which we have just been speaking by imperialist circles and the military-industrial complex, the activity is minimal when it comes to replying to the constructive proposals by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

[Kolchanov] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, this activity probably shouldn't even be called minimal, it should be called completely zero activity, or at most....

[Zholkver, interrupting] A truly zero option.

[Kolchanov] Yes, as far as activity goes, this is certainly a case where the term zero option could be used.

[Zholkver] What I had in mind was this: The NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES, the sort of semi-official organ of the Atlantic bloc, after weeks of thought and after the meeting of leaders of the European socialist states in Moscow, gave a reply to the proposals contained in the Prague declaration of the Warsaw Pact and put forward by the Moscow meeting. What was NATO's reply? Virtually nothing. They, as it were, took cognizance once again of all these proposals, but not a single one....

[Kolchanov, interrupting] ...did they implement.

[Zholkver] ...did they implement, or put into effect. It's interesting, as far as the proposal to freeze military budgets is concerned -- so I read in NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES — NATO says that this subject has been under discussion for a long time. Well, there's no getting away from the truth: The Soviet Union has long been submitting the proposal to reduce military spending. We proposed that from 1 January 1984 military spending not be increased, so that subsequently we can move toward reducing it. What does NATO reply? That the subject has long been under discussion.

[Beglov] You know, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, I shall just run through the proposals of ours to which we have simply had no reply, even though these proposals concern cardinal issues of war and peace, in other words the cardinal issues of life on earth and the future of makind.

We proposed, for example, that agreement be reached on ending the production of nuclear weapons and reducing the stockpiles of those weapons until they are completely eliminated. There was no reply, or else a negative one. Our country is insisting on banning neutron weapons and all other types of mass destruction weapons. The USSR took an unprecedented step when it pledged unilaterally not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. And then what? What was the West's reaction? Silence and a negative reply. Together with its allies the Soviet Union proposed that an agreement be signed on the mutual nonuse of military force between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. Ought we not to be able to agree here if NATO is such a peace-loving organization and if Washington thinks of nothing other than peace? So let's come to agreement, let's sign a treaty, an agreement, on the nonuse of military force between the two blocs. Once again, silence. The Soviet Union put forward a specific program for eliminating the nuclear threat from the lives of the peoples on the European Continent. We support the initiatives to set up nuclear-free zones not only in central and northern Europe, but also in the Balkans, in Latin America or any other area, and we are also willing to give real guarantees of security to all non-nuclear countries. Finally, we advocate serious talks on disarmament questions; first and foremost we advocate eliminating the means of mass destruction.

Quite recently during his meeting with Cunhal, secretary general of the Portuguese Communist Party, Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, stressed once again our country's striving for what is the most important thing: to protect mankind from the threat of nuclear war. The Soviet Union keeps issuing more and more peace proposals. Each of our peace initiatives is not a step to one side, nor even less is it a step back; it is a development of previous initiatives and the submission of new proposals which promote the overcoming of tension in the world and which could truly lead to a lasting peace and detente on earth. But the West is wrong to assume that this is being done under some sort of pressure.

We are in favor of equal security, we are in favor only of the principle of equality and justice and will never allow ourselves to be addressed from a position of strength.

[Zholkver] And as far as the proposals by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are concerned, they remain as before, despite the recess at Geneva, on the negotiating table, and, incidentally, not in Geneva alone. But what seems most noteworthy to me now is that these questions are being discussed, and to a considerable extent are already being solved, not only by governments but by broad strata of the popular masses.

[Beglov] It's true: Politics has ceased to be the business of politicians alone. That is not just a catchphrase; it is a reflection of reality.

[Zholkver] We saw this in the last week, too, during the week of action to ban nuclear weapons, and this activity by the peoples is a force which can only be reckoned with today.

Thank you very much for taking part in this talk. Goodbye esteemed listeners.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS'

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["International Situation: Questions and Answers" program presented by All-Union Radio commentator Anatoliy Andreyevich Doronin with political observer Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, PRAVDA editorial board member Pavel Yepifanovich Demchenko, and All-Union Radio commentator Viktor Nilolayevich Levin]

[Excerpts] [Doronin] Going through the mail, I grouped your letters according to problems: the arms race and U.S. policy. Political observer Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin will give you a reply to this group of questions. Pavel Yepifanovich Demchenko, member of the PRAVDA editorial board, will talk about the situation in central Africa and the Near East; my colleague Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, All-Union Radio commentator, will dwell on the problem of neo-nazism. We shall also give short replies to a number of other questions.

Arms Race, U.S. Policy

Before going on to specific issues, Nikolay Vladimirovich, I would ask you to answer a more general question from Comrade (Skripnik) from Odessa. He writes: We link the present tense situation with the policy of the Reagan administration. Perhaps, however, it is the natural result of the intensification of struggle between two opposed systems. The idea that detente is merely a dream seems to be implied here. Is this true?

[Shishlin] Not quite, although the question in itself is a natural one, and I think that the author is not mistaken in linking the present increase in tension not only with the policy of the Reagan administration, but also with the general exacerbation and rivalry between the two opposed systems.

Nevertheless, a fairly expressive "but" must be placed here, because on the one hand there is the specific line of the Reagan administration, and on the other hand there is also another trend in political life, a trend of dispositions in responsible and influential circles of the West, which evaluate the situation in a far more realistic manner and think more realistically about how to build mutual relations with the Soviet Union and the socialist world.

I think it is necessary to say here that the seventies were marked by the birth of the process of detente and its development. This period has by no means sunk into oblivion, and all the positive things of the seventies have by no means been wiped out by the development of these acute, alarming, and at times simply sinister events in the eighties. I speak about detente in this way, especially since detente itself was the consequence and result not of diplomatic and political experience, although both political and diplomatic experience was necessary of course, but it reflected objective necessities to strengthen peace and establish peaceful cooperation. Behind the truly dangerous events of today we see that detente is alive. This is evidenced by the results of the work of the Madrid meeting; as you know, there are now prospects for this meeting to be completed at the beginning of the fall on a wholly constructive note.

[Doronin] Thus, what is essentially involved is a struggle, a clash of two opposing trends; on the one hand, toward intensification of tension, and on the other hand toward detente.

[Shishlin] Quite true. Unfortunately, even at the moment, it is true, we see that the trend toward exacerbation of tension has gathered quite a lot of strength and the force of a certain inertia, and it is naturally no easy matter to break and crush this trend.

[Doronin] To judge from the scale of the antiwar movement in Europe, the broad masses in the countries of West Europe are evidently aware of this.

[Shishlin] This is undoubtedly so, and I would like to say that the voice of these same antinuclear movements, whether in Europe or in the United States, has perhaps never resounded more authoritatively or with more weight. It is very characteristic that the antinuclear movement today includes not only the strata that react most rapidly and sensitively to various international trends, but also reputable political circles. For instance, just the other day the famous West German politician Brandt made a statement. He insistently raises the issue of the need to eliminate the artificial "urgency" [German "Zeitnot" as heard] at the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear arms limitation in Europe. Brandt believes that the negotiations should be continued but that the deployment of American nuclear missiles should be blocked for the entire duration of the negotiations. This of course is all very symptomatic and, we may say today, it is a real factor that will determine the political climate both in Europe and throughout the world in the fall of 1983.

[Doronin] Nevertheless, to judge from reports, the new American nuclear missiles will most likely be deployed in West Europe. This of course worries many of our listeners.

[Shishlin] Launch sites for Pershings are indeed being prepared in West Germany and for cruise missiles in Britain and Italy. This is true. Furthermore, U.S. Administration officials are persistently proclaiming the following thesis: They will deploy the new nuclear missiles. It should be said that the deployment of the new American nuclear missiles is not in itself an act that can be carried out just like that, it drags on for years -- and, so they say, when the first nine Pershing II missiles are sited in West Germany, and a larger number of cruise missiles in Britain and Italy, then the Soviet Union will become more complaisant at the negotiations, then, when it finally becomes more complaisant some sort of interim solution will be found.

I should describe this as some sort of propaganda security policy. Such a plan is quite clearly and obviously intended to create the opportunity for inflicting a first strike against the Soviet Union. What is the Soviet reply to such ideas? Our first reply -- you recall this well -- is that our country genuinely strives for a mutually acceptable solution being found at the Geneva negotiations.

Is has repeatedly been emphasized in the Soviet Union at the most authoritative level that a mutually acceptable compromise is possible until deployment of American nuclear missile weapons in West Europe takes place. And our diplomats are indeed undertaking constructive and serious efforts to find a way out at the Geneva negotiations as far as possible. This is a reflection of our country's political position. On the other hand, however, a compromise can only be the consequence of moves by both sides, and we are unfortunately obliged to state that the American side is continuing to put forward positions unacceptable to us, and the interim option born in Washington of course offers no outcome at all.

[Doronin] Many radio listeners ask what sort of interim option is meant here.

[Shishlin] The essence of this interim option consists in the United States continuing to demand of the Soviet Union a completely inadequate, so to speak, reduction of its nuclear missile potential deployed in the European part of our country; that is, a reduction such as would not take into account the British and French nuclear forces, but which would thereby create a sharp tilt in NATO's favor. This is naturally a totally unacceptable proposal and is rejected by us. In addition to this part of our reaction to the actions of NATO and of the United States, there is a second part of our response. We are genuinely exerting vigorous efforts, and shall continue to do so in the fall, toward finding a solution that would ensure that the new American nuclear missiles do not appear in Europe. If the United States nevertheless carries out this so-called NATO two-track decision, however, in accordance with the agreement with its Warsaw Treaty allies the Soviet Union will undertake vigorous and effective responsive measures to ensure that the security of our country and that of our friends is not violated.

[Doronin] In this connection many of our radio listeners, particularly those who took part in the Great Patriotic War, such as war veteran (Muszin), are interested in whether we are capable of withstanding a first strike and whether we are ready to repulse it.

[Shishlin] One can give only a affirmative reply to this question. The United States too, of course, knows that the Soviet Union has at its disposal multiple opportunities for inflicting unacceptable damage upon the United States if things do indeed come to the worst. One would think, however, that we have both political and defensive resources sufficient to avert this worst case.

[Doronin] Nikolay Vladimirovich, in order to finish with this group of questions I shall ask you to answer another question. Comrade (Babenko), who lives in Taranovka Village, Kharkov Oblast, asks why we intend to supply gas to West Europe if the FRG and a number of other countries agree to install American first-strike missiles targeted on the Soviet Union.

[Shishlin] This is not, of course, a simple question. One needs to separate all the elements of this question. We see as totally unacceptable the position of West Germany, which is indeed playing a very unseemly role in the matter of implementing the NATO decision relating to deployment of the new types of American nuclear missiles. We consider this to be a very short-sighted and dangerous policy. And of course, if the deployment of American nuclear missiles in West Germany comes about, this cannot but have an adverse effect on our relations with that country. The question of trade and mutual economic links must be distinguished from questions of defense and politics, although they are in some degree related. The Soviet Union has always acted as a very reliable and trustworthy partner in trade links with the capitalist countries, just, of course, as it has with the socialist countries. One may think that the very fact of our concluding agreements with West Germany and a number of other West European states for supplies of Soviet gas is a factor that actually works in favor of peace.

It is a factor working toward enlightening minds and which genuinely discloses the real orientation of Soviet foreign policy, a policy calculated toward stable and reliable peace in conditions in which broad peaceful cooperation will develop. This is, if you like, a normal trade deal, in the first place; and on the other hand it is a major authoritative and perceptible gesture of goodwill, of not only economic, but also political goodwill.

U.S. in Central America

[Shishlin] The United States has long considered Central America as a region where the will and law of the United States should reign unquestioned. The Caribbean Basin itself has been described as an American pond, so to speak, where American sharks and all these Central American sardines live. Those times, however, have gone. All the social processes that have developed in the Caribbean zone have led to perceptible social shifts taking place there. This was reflected most acutely and dramatically in the victory of the Sandinista revolution, to say nothing of the socialist revolution in Cuba which preceded it. This is all visibly reflected in the processes now developing in El Salvador, where, as our radio listeners know, an acute struggle is being waged between the revolutionary forces and the forces backed by the United States. The United States is indeed now trying to alter the course of events there by means of harsh pressure, primarily upon Nicaragua. Of course, whatever the United States says to the effect that the maneuvers it is holding in Honduras and the buildup of the strength of the American fleet on either side of Nicaragua are just normal, this is not the case: It is the most overt, crude, and imperial, harsh pressure.

It is characteristic, however, that in spite of this massed and purposeful pressure by the United States, the political process in Central America itself does not look so very simple at all -- not even simple for the United States itself.

[Doronin] This applies not just to Central America, though.

[Shishlin] Of course, this is not just in Central America. I myself, for instance, have the impression that sometimes American politicians think in purely arithmetical categories; that there are certain components of military force at the disposal of the United States and there is, so to speak, the American mass -- by this I mean the economic and other potential of that country. And what is opposed to this? Comparatively small countries. According to this simple political arithmetic a solution will be found such as will suit Washington one hundred percent emerges from this comparison. There was Vietnam, when this arithmetic did not work. And in this case, of course, policy is not arithmetic; it is, at the minimum, algebraic. The United States is coming up against this algebra of revolution, this algebra of objective processes of social progress. These demonstrate that there is no scope for imperial policy in the world today. This naturally does not really relate only to Central America, but also to other regions of the world. The time of social changes is born, objectively, of processes of development. Given this, it is strictly determined and strictly preordained.

[Doronin] Comrade (Vachurin) from Yaroslavl asks why China does not demand reparations from Japan for damage inflicted during World War II. The government of the PRC dropped this demand in 1972 and this was formalized in a joint Japanese-Chinese statement.

Comrade (Salymov) from the Komi ASSR asks why our country has not ratified the Salt II treaty. The Soviet Union has repeatedly stated that it is willing to ratify this treaty and will do this if it is ratified by the U.S. side. But, naturally, we cannot assume treaty commitments at a time when the United States is escalating the arms race.

Comrade (Karamyslov) from Uglegorsk, Sakhalin Oblast, asks the following question: In spite of the scandal caused by the theft of President Carter's documents by employees of the current U.S. President 2 years ago, why has Regan gotten away with everything, whereas the Watergate scandal cost Nixon his presidential chair? A committee of the House of Representatives is now investigating the scandal. Who knows how it will end? Without making predictions, however, one ought to point out that this is not an isolated occurrence. It is only one more example of the fact that bourgeois politicians do not shrink from any methods in the struggle for power, in this case in the White House.

Developments in Chad

Let us turn to another group of questions. Many of our listeners -- in particular Comrades (Belevin) from Rybinsk and (Gorokhov) from Leningrad, ask what the reason is for the Chad conflict. Comrades, I shall ask Pavel Yepifanovich Demchenko to answer your questions.

[Demchenko] First and foremost, I would like to say that Chad is a large desert country in central Africa. It used to be a French colony. Soon after it received independence, communal and religious strife began there. In other words, some tribes grouped together for a struggle against other tribes. Gradually two large, feuding groups were formed, which began a real civil war among themselves. This civil war has now assumed international characteristics and become particularly dangerous. The United States, France, and a number of African countries, above all Zaire, which has sent troops to Chad, have already joined in.

[Doronin] Our listeners ask why Zairian troops are now taking part in the hostilities, togehter with Habre's armed forces.

[Demchenko] There are two factors here. In the first place Zaire has long supported this grouping headed by Hissein Habre, the present head of the regime in Ndjamena, the capital of Chad. But there is another factor here. In recent years Zaire has firmly tied its foreign policy to the religious and tribal strife in Chad that has been going on for over 17 years. This war has brought the people of Chad much suffering. But as is always the case with such internal strife, the imperialist powers and external forces are taking advantage of it. Ever since France left Chad after granting independence to that republic it has constantly sent in its troops, who have interfered in a purely internal conflict by taking sides in order to retain control over potentially rich sources of minerals.

But in the most recent period the United States has also taken an interest. France is now acting not just as an ally of the United States, but also as a henchman, as it were. The Americans are now interfering directly in the affairs of Chad, using both Zaire, which we have mentioned, and the French in its selfish interests.

[Doronin] Here the question arises as to what the United States is seeking in Chad.

[Demchenko] The United States would like to play a more active role throughout the African Continent. Chad is one of the key regions in Africa from which the United States could exert influence on both North Africa and East Africa, apart from the fact that the United States has interests in Chad itself. The point is that there has long been a conflict between the United States and Libya. Libya supports Oueddei, the head of the provisional government in Chad, who was overthrown by Hissein Habre and expelled from the capital. The United States wants to strike a blow from Chad against the southern borders of Libya. Chad borders on Libya. From the north the United States is also putting pressure on Libya. A large squadron is now stationed off the Libyan shores. It includes the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier "Eisenhower".

The CIA has never made any secret of the fact that it aims to remove the present Libyan regime, to install a more obedient government in that republic, and maybe to be through with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the head of the present Libyan regime. So, one has to regard the U.S. role from the point of view of those great imperial ambitions that are manifesting themselves in many parts of the world, including Central America, southern Africa, the Near East -- and now central Africa, where plots are being hatched not only against the people of Chad, but also against neighboring Libya.

[Doronin] How are events developing in this region, do you think?

[Demchenko] Unfortunately, the hostilities in Chad have now become very large-scale. They are taking place in the central and northern parts of the republic. Aircraft, tank units, paratrooper units, airborne units from Zaire are taking part in them. U.S. specialists and several squadrons of U.S. planes and advisers have been transferred there in the last few days. The French are participating in the hostilities. Arms, ammunition, and so on are being brought in. We can now say that the situation is deteriorating and that the fighting will evidently continue in the near future. But the outcome of the war is not clear. Be that as it may, one should say that the losers are the Chadian people who have suffered many misfortunes during the past 18 years and are now a toy in the hands of mighty imperialist forces.

[Doronin] Pavel Yepifanovich, I would like you to answer a question from Comrade (Gorokhov), a listener in Leningrad. He asks the following question: Why did Afghanistan have the right to ask for assistance from the Soviet Union whereas Chad -- he has in mind the Habre regime -- cannot?

[Demchenko] Well, you know, in accordance with the UN Charter every state can ask for assistance from friendly states in order to defend itself from external threat. It has happened on more than one occasion in the history of international relations. It happened in Afghanistan. But in the present case, in the case of Chad, one is speaking of something completely different. The point is that that country does not have a government which is recognized by all states. Just recently the OAU session in Addis Ababa discussed the question of the legitimacy of the government of Hissein Habre. In other words, the internal problem has not been settled. That is one thing.

In the second place we are now dealing with interference by external forces in the internal affairs of the Chadian state at a time when the problem of national unity and the problem of internal contradictions are being tackled. Moreover, this is being done to crush a certain part of the Chadian people and to virtually restore the colonial order in that central African republic.

Middle East Detailed

[Doronin] Now, Pavel Yepifanovich, I will ask you to answer questions about the Near East. Many of our listeners, in particular Comrade (Selivanov) from Orenburg and Comrade (Zhilkin) from the village of Sredniy Raskhovets in Kursk Oblast, are interested in the situation in that region. Perhaps you would first describe in brief the present situation in the Near East.

[Demchenko] The situation in the Near East remains very acute. Lebanon, a small Arab state at the eastern end of the Mediterranean, has become the center of tension. Let us remember that the Israeli Army invaded Lebanon last summer.

The Israeli occuplation of Lebanon has continued since then. In practice the country is divided into several parts. The Israelis occupy roughly 40 percent of Lebanon. Lebanese patriots, who have not reconciled themselves to this occupation, have launched active partisan operations against the Israeli occupiers. According to official statistics published in Tel Aviv, more than 50 Israelis have been killed and about 500 wounded during the first 6 months of this year alone. According to the same Israeli information services, 263 partisan operations were carried out against the Israeli occupiers. The situation there is very hot. The conflicts that are now taking place, that is, the struggle, including the armed struggle, that has been launched on the territory of Lebanon, could spread to Syrian territory.

[Doronin] You spoke about the patriotic forces of Lebanon that are fighting against the Israeli occupiers. Our listeners ask whether Lebanon has a regular army and what role it plays.

[Demchenko] Yes, there is a regular army in Lebanon. But a clarification is needed here. The point is that a civil war flared up in Lebanon in 1975-76. During this war the Lebanese Army more or less fell apart and ceased to exist. Therefore, the Arab League decided to send contingents from a number of Arab states to Lebanon. The contingents came from five or six states. The number varied at different periods. But the Syrian Army always formed the basis of these contingents. There were peace-keeping forces that brought about an end to the civil war and initiated the process of pacification, so to speak, throughout Lebanon. These forces completed the task in the main and were withdrawn from Lebanon. Gradually all the Arab countries, with the exception of Syria, withdrew their forces. Syria was empowered by the Arab League to carry out this same mission thenceforth. This mission continued up to the point when the Israelis invaded Lebanon last year and inflicted certain losses on the Syrian Army.

This problem, the problem of the presence of Syrian forces on Lebanese terriorty, took on a new aspect. On the one hand, in accordance with an Arab League decision, the Syrian units were supposed to control the situation in Lebanon, in limited areas of Lebanon -- not throughout Lebanon. On the other hand a front of confrontation between Israeli units and Syria had already come about.

[Doronin] In connection with the presence of Syrian troops on Lebanese territory, a number of listeners ask why Syria is unwilling to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

[Demchenko] There are several sides, several aspects to this problem. First and foremost, one should mention that on 17 May Israel and Lebanon concluded a peace agreement. The United States took part in the negotiations. According to this agreement the Israeli Army must be withdrawn from Lebanese territory within 8-12 weeks. That is at least what the agreement says. But at the same time Israel and the United States signed a secret memorandum, which the press later heard about, virtually relieving the Israeli Army from its principal commitment under the agreement, the withdrawal of its troops from Lebanese territory. The Israeli-U.S. memorandum said that Israeli troops would only be withdrawn after or at the same time as Syrian forces leave Lebanese territory. The Syrian Government categorically rejected this approach. It considers absolutely unacceptable an approach in which the troops of an aggressor and the troops of a country that sent its men into a neighboring country in accordance with an Arab League decision, troops who are carrying out a completely different mission, are treated virtually the same way.

Therefore, Syria took the following attitude: Israel must unconditionally withdraw its forces from Lebanese territory. Then these two states, Lebanon and Syria, will discuss the question of whether it is necessary to withdraw Syrian forces or whether it is unnecessary. If it is decided that the Syrian forces should withdraw, Syria will withdraw its troops from Lebanese territory.

But one needs to bear in mind another very important thing. The Israelis have now concentrated large forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley. The southern part of this valley is occupied by Israeli troops. The northern part is occupied by Syrian units. This zone of confrontation, where Syrian and Israeli troops face each other directly, is only 25-30 km from Damascus, the Syrian capital. If hostilities break out, Israeli artillery can shell the capital of the Syrian state. Therefore, Syria has to have a guarantee that the aggressor will withdraw from Lebanese territory, will not return there, and will not directly threaten the Syrian capital. Therefore this problem has to be viewed comprehensively.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

[Doronin] Here is another question for you, Pavel Yepifanovich, about the military conflict between Iraq and Iran. Comrade (Zhidov) from the village of (Chenyushetsi) in Moldavia asks us to talk about the reasons for this conflict and the measures being taken to halt the war between these states.

[Demchenko] The pointless war between Iraq and Iran has been continuing for almost 3 years now, since September 1980. Territorial disputes are the underlying reason for it. But this war has gradually acquired a broader political significance. Now that both armies occupy roughly their original positions -- admittedly Iranian units have made small inroads into Iraqi territory -- political objectives have come to the forefront. The Iranian leadership is demanding the replacement of the Baghdad government. Naturally, the Baghdad government cannot agree to such demands. Instead it is proposing that the hostilities be halted on a temporary or a permanent basis and that the solution of this question be passed on to some international organization or even the UN. Iran is rejecting all peace proposals, not only from Iraq, but also from third states. Such proposals have already been made by Cuba, the Nonaligned Movement, India, Algeria, and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. But, as I have already said, the Iranian leadership is rejecting everything and insisting that it will not cease hositilities and begin any talks until the Iraqi regime is replaced. This demand is without precedent in international practice and drives the conflict between Iraq and Iran into an impasse.

U.S. Electronic Espionage

Comrade (Galeulin) from the village of Staryye Chelny in the Tatar ASSR asks us to speak about the electronic espionage being carried out by the United States from the territory of countries that border on the Soviet Union. What legal right, he asks, does the United States have to justify its actions? After U.S. electronic tracking and monitoring stations in Iran were closed down, they were transferred to Pakistan, to Sargodha, Gwadar, Peshawar, Karachi, and Islamabad. According to the press, the electronic equipment installed at them makes it possible not just to maintain communications with warships in the Indian Ocean region and to monitor their movements, but also to collect intelligence information about countries that are neighbors of Pakistan. As far as legal rights are concerned, none exist as far as I know.

REAGAN GIVES SPEECH NEAR 'CONCENTRATION CAMP'

LD122314 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1825 GMT 12 Aug 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Vladimir Dunayev]

[Excerpts] President Ronald Reagan delivered a speech today in the town of Tampa in the state of Florida. He spoke of freedom in Central America, of this freedom being threatened by communists and of the dispatch of the U.S. Navy and troops to Honduras and El Salvador to defend human rights.

It so happens that we received a video report today precisely from there. This is not South Africa or the slave island of Haiti or the jungles of the Amazon. This video report was shot in the United States in the vicinity of Tampa in the center of the state of Florida.

In search of seasonal work, farm laborers came to this camp from which there was no return. It is called a work camp but it could more accurately be called a concentration camp. There were slaves living here and slavish conditions. People were beaten to death and had dogs set upon them. People were bought and sold and were made to work up to 16 hours a day.

This video report by American television from the slave camp in Florida could only be dreamed of in a terrible nightmare. And yet it was here today in the vicinity of this town and this place that President Reagan spoke and defended the rights and liberties of other peoples.

SOVIET OBSERVERS ASSAIL 'NUCLEAR FALSE ALARMS'

Anderson PARADE Article

LD130539 Moscow TASS in English 0517 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] New York August 13 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vladimir Kikilo reports:

In recent years U.S. military repeatedly put the world on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe that could follow as a result of "errors" committed by U.S. servicemen or computers. These monstrous incidents, which the Pentagon is trying to hush up, were recounted by the illustrated PARADE magazine.

One such incident occurred on November 19, 1980, at the McConnell Air Base near the town of Wichita (Kansas) during ground tests of a "Titan" intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The officers in charge of the tests suddenly saw on the screen of the control board the words "launch permitted", and then "proceed to launching". This could mean only one thing: that the missile had been put in the launching position. To make the missile go up, the officers had to turn the same key whose turn -- according to the tests programme -- was only supposed to imitate launching.

Cutting the computer off the power circuit, it proved possible to put the "Titan" back into the silo. It later transpired that the incident occurred because in the control board computer they had forogtten to substitute the "training" code for "combat".

A still more dangerous incident, the PARADE continued, occurred a year earlier, on November 9, 1979, when a computer error alerted the U.S. Armed Forces to a state of "high combat readiness in connection with a nuclear attack". For six minutes, it writes, U.S. intercontinental ballistic missiles were ready to fly on command.

In commenting on the article in PARADE, local watchers recall that 151 false nuclear alarms have already been registered in the United States, plus 3,703 signals of a "less serious" nature. In the conditions of the way psychosis being fuelled in the country, each of these could have well caused an all-destructive nuclear conflict.

Other 'Broken Arrow Incidents'

LD122059 Moscow TASS in English 2016 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

That happened on November 19, 1979. Because of a computer's error the U.S. Armed Forces "were alerted in connection with a nuclear attack". For six minutes American inter-continental missiles were ready to go up by command. The error was discovered only at the last moment.

The fact which has just been reported by the American journal PARADE is no exception: known are also many other incidents and accidents with American nuclear weapons, which brought the world literally to the brink of a nuclear abyss. Suffice it to recall the episode when NORAD radars mistook for "Soviet bombers" a flock of geese flying across the Atlantic to the North American continent. The error was discovered only 30 seconds before the order was to be given to strategic "B-52" strategic bombers with nuclear weapons aboard, raised by alarm, to deal a "retaliatory strike."

And what can be said about another episode when the data on an impending "missile strike" on the USA were transmitted to U.S. air bases "by error" and ten American planes were already in the air, taking up the course to the territory of "a potential enemy"? Or such, say, facts when a "B-52" bomber who had an accident in the air, dropped two nuclear bombs in the vicinity of Goldsboro, North Carolina, and another American bomber, which was over Spain, collided in the air with a refuelling plane and that resulted in dropping four hydrogen bombs nor far from the Spanish settlement of Palomares.

The Pentagon admitted in its time that at least 32 serious incidents with American nuclear weapons, called in the Pantagon's slang "broken arrow incidents", have taken place in the United States and beyond it over a period of 30 years. Commenting on the article in PARADE, observers recall that there have been already 151 false nuclear alarms in the United States and also another 3,703 such signals of a "less serious" character. What is the explanation for the fact that the number of "broken arrows", which create a real threat to peace, is so great, and teleprinters continue bringing with alarming frequency news of ever new accidents with U.S. warplanes, accidents with American missiles, of false "combat alarms"?

All that is the direct consequence of Washington's stake on "power methods" in politics, the consequence of the course of the unrestrained arms race which is conducted by the "Reagan team" which intends to break at any cost the military-strategic parity established in Europe and the world so as, on having got a nuclear sword, long and sharp, to dictate its will to sovereign countries and peoples. This is the direct result of the militaristic hysteria which Washington political strategists are now fanning up with unprecedented intensity. In 1984 expenditures for military purposes are to reach 273,000 billion dollars in the United States and in 1988 the figure is expected to be as high as 425,000 billion dollars. The chain of 1,500 American military bases and structures, the nests of aggression, stretches through the countries of the world, like an ominous cobweb. Should one be surprised that in these conditions the number of "broken arrows" continues to grow?

The facts reported by PARADE reaffirm once again: The U.S. nuclear policy is a threat to peace, a grave, real threat, which hangs over the planet now, today...

Pershing II 'Design Flaws'

LD121144 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] The American mass media means have reported about a new incident that could have a nuclear missile launched and exploded as a possible consequence. More from our observer Viktor Olin.

Reports say that the nuclear missile Titan was about to be fired when two officers who suspected that something was wrong managed to prevent the launching. The incident happened at the McConnell air base, Kansas state, in November 1980. Despite the fact that a spokesman of the Air Force hurried to refute the report, it was taken as another warning that the danger increases as the world stockpiles more and more mass destruction means, nuclear above all. The risk of an accidental unsanctioned use of such arms is constantly growing. The most likely consequence is that events may go out of control and overgrow into a general thermonuclear conflict.

The systematic nature of incidents, similar to the above-mentioned, proves that such a prospect is not speculative but very real. Recently the missile of the same type, Titan, exploded. The spanner fell down into the silo and struck the missile warhead which was thrown several kilometers away by the explosion. There are many occasions when American strategic aircraft lost nuclear bombs. Residents of the town of Goldsboro in Northern Carolina still remember the incident when B-52 bombers lost two H-bombs. Only one of the six safety devices on one of the bombs did not go out of order and that prevented a thermonuclear explosion. But maybe the latest systems of American nuclear arms are more reliable. Nothing of the kind. A recent report of the General Accounting Office, which is an investigative arm of the Congress, stated that the American Armed Forces receive today more and more kinds of arms which have not gone through necessary tests and thus are prone to lead to any unpredicted accidents. The Pentagon is doing this deliberately, accumulating for political ends as much weaponry as possible even if it is unfit for use. In this sense the medium-range Pershing II missile, due to be deployed in West Germany at the end of this year, provided a graphic example. It was put into serial production though it had not gone through necessary tests. Now serious flaws have been discovered in its design. In these conditions a decisive effort is required not to let a nuclear conflict happen as a result of a miscalculation or some error.

Such minor measures as the perfection of the hotline between Moscow and Washington, useful as they are, are no key to a solution of the problem. The way to a solution lies in the achievement of an honest and fair agreement on curbing the arms race and putting it in reverse.

U.S. WORLDWIDE MILITARY 'INTERVENTION' SCORED

LD122202 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 12 Aug 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Vladimir Dunayev]

[Excerpts] President Ronald Reagan stated today at a press conference that he would not send U.S. troops to Chad, although he would not permit the collapse of the Habre regime either. UPI reports from Cairo that the visit planned for Monday by the U.S. aircraft carrier "Eisenhower" and the guided-missile cruiser "Virginia" to the Egyptian port of Alexandria is being cancelled, as these ships are now on patrol off the coast of Libya as part of two U.S. Navy carrier strike groups and cannot leave or be in both places at once.

For the same reasons the U.S.-Egyptian "Bright Star" joint maneuvers, which have just begun today on Egyptian territory, will proceed without the participation of the U.S. AWACS aircraft. They now have a combat task, not a training one. They are flying over the border between Sudan and Chad.

I have juxtaposed today's statement by the U.S. President and these news agency reports of U.S. military action on the borders of Chad and Libya not merely in order to demonstrate their incompatibility. President Reagan made his statement about U.S. troops in connection with Chad only when he was sure that French troops, French paratroops, are already there.

You know, comrades, I cannot recall a single day that has yielded so many reports, truly global reports, about U.S. military activity, U.S. maneuvers, and the U.S. Armed Forces that are now either being shipped all over the world or participating in maneuvers, exercises, and so on -- both the Army and the Navy. Reports have come from Japan, from the Ogasawara Islands, from the Caribbean -- where the U.S. aircraft carrier "Coral Sea" is now cruising from the Mediterranean, from Libya's territorial waters, from Lebanon, from Egypt, South Korea, and of course from Honduras and Panama. There has not yet been a report about the aircraft carrier "Ranger," which is off the Pacific coast of Nicaragua, but something about it comes in every day too -- it is on the move with its carrier strike detachment. It has been a long time since the Pentagon has had to criss-cross the seas and oceans to such an extent.

It is no accident that U.S. General John Vessey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an important figure, has just complained, on his return from Honduras, that the forces and resources are no longer sufficient to cover all the places where the Reagan administration would like to have U.S. control.

Under these circumstances Washington would like to shift part of the intervention onto someone else's shoulders: in particular, having gripped Chad and Libya in its military pincers, the United States exerted persistent pressure on Paris so as to give a French complexion to an American war.

Here is today's video report from Chad, showing French paratroops in the streets of Ndjamena. There will soon be 500 of them there. I would remind you that when the French Socialists and their leaders were in opposition they severely condemned any participation by French military contingents in the internal affairs of France's former colonies in Africa. Further, as recently as last Sunday the French defense minister declared that under no circumstances would French military units be dispatched to Chad.

Officials of the Reagan administration, to whom THE NEW YORK TIMES refers, made it clear to the French that if Paris refuses to undertake vigorous military steps in Chad, relations between France and the United States would be clouded, and Paris gave in. The warning was published on the very day when the airlift of French troops to Chad began. All this is stated not to excuse Paris' actions, but to explain which way the wind blows.

Roland Leroy, member of the French Communist Party Politburo, spoke of the disturbing development of the situation in Chad in an interview with French television. We are disturbed, he said, since we consider that the African countries expect from France something other than the dispatch of troops to Chad.

Setting out on the path of intervention, whose outcome cannot be foretold, is not in the interests of France, said Jean-Claude Gayssot, member of the French Communist Party Politburo. Speaking on Radio Monte Carlo, he stated that it is in the interests of France to aid the quest for a peaceful political solution to the problem of Chad.

KAPITSA SEPTEMBER VISIT TO PRC ASSESSED

LD131520 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1304 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow, Aug 13 (TANJUG) -- One of Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's assistants, Mikhail Kapitsa, will visit Beijing from September 8 to 16, at the invitation of Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

Kapitsa unofficially visited Beijing in spring (?this year). That visit preceded the Moscow round of the Soviet-Chinese political dialogue on terms for the normalization of relations between the two countries. Kapitsa was assistant of the Soviet delegation head at the consultations.

His forthcoming visit and Beijing's invitation, are interpreted by observers as a confirmation that in the next round of the talks Kapitsa will head the Soviet delegation, instead of its head to date Leonid Ilichev.

SOVIET SOCCER TEAM ARRIVES IN BEIJING

PM141815 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 83 First Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Shakhter in China"]

[Text] Beijing, 11 Aug -- The Donetsk soccer team Shakhter which will be playing three friendly matches in the PRC -- against a Beijing team (13 August), a Shanghai team (16 August), and a PRC national team (18 August) -- has arrived here.

Beijing soccer fans are showing great interest in the upcoming matches. According to information received from representatives of the PRC soccer federation, about 70,000 tickets have already been sold for the 13 August match. That is almost the total capacity of the Gongren Stadium.

As representatives of the PRC Physical Culture and Sports Committee have said in conversation with a TASS correspondent, China's soccer players are looking forward with anticipation to the meetings with the Soviet soccer players, who enjoy a deservedly high reputation, as they noted. The matches involving the Soviet team will be broadcast on Chinese television.

ASIAN CIRCLES RAPPED FOR EQUATING U.S., USSR

OW150439 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 14 Aug 83

[(Sigorskiy) Commentary]

[Excerpts] We invite you to listen to a commentary written by (Sigorskiy), a Soviet international affairs reporter, on the attempt of some Asian political cliques to use the equating tactic of putting the United States and the Soviet Union on a par in foreign policy. His commentary reads as follows.

In the documents they adopted at their seventh conference in New Delhi, the nonaligned countries denounced on a number of issues the imperialist powers which, they said, were causing the international situation to aggravate in all parts of the world. This is a noteworthy fact and no matter of coincidence. However, the documents also noted the positive role played by the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community in promoting detente and the movement for peace and disarmament.

Indeed, some political cliques in Asia are insisting, even openly in their government statements, that there is no difference in principle between the foreign policy of the United States and that of the Soviet Union. They say that these two superpowers are contending with each other for spheres of influence and both pursuing an expansionist policy in the world, and so on.. Furthermore, they also obstinately claim that the Soviet Union harbors a certain hegemonist ambition toward the nonaligned countries.

It is very obvious, however, that the hidden intention behind such fabrications is to curry favor with the imperialists by spreading slanders about Soviet foreign policy. There is another prupose behind it. That is, to drive a wedge into the existing traditional relations of friendship and trust between the Soviet Union and many non-aligned countries.

To equate U.S. imperialism with the Soviet Union is a tactic that borders on wickedness. Take the current situation in the Near East for instance. Not everyone understands what has caused the Near East to develop into its present situation. This is because, in every step they take and every diplomatic move they make the Zionist aggressors and their bosses across the ocean have been purposely turning simple facts into mysteries, confusing right and wrong and carrying out swindles and bluffs. It is precisely from this torrent of mind-confusing and vicious attacks of the imperialists that these cliques in Asia, people who would vilify the Soviet position at any costs, are drawing the material they need.

The position taken by the United States in regard to the mediation efforts in the Near East completely differs from that of the Soviet Union on the matter. The two are diametrically opposed to each other. The United States proceeds from the viewpoint that the interests of the Israeli aggressors are those of the United States. The Soviet Union, however, proceeds from a desire to support the victims of imperialist aggression and to strive for a just peace in the area and the independence of all countries there.

Therefore, it is not so much from shortsightedness as rather from harboring evil intentions that anyone should regard Soviet policy on the Near East the same as U.S. policy on the issue. These people are not only undermining the friendship between the Soviet Union and the Arabs, but are boosting the morale of the Arab people's enemies as well.

KAPITSA MEETS JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER 13 AUG

Abe Moscow Stopover

OW150831 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] Shintaro Abe, Japanese foreign minister, stopped over in Moscow on his way back to Tokyo on 13 August. At the airport to meet and see him off were Soviet Government officials, including Vice Foreign Minister Kapitsa and Masuo Takashima, Japanese ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Abe, Gromyko To Hold Talks

OW140651 Tokyo KYODO in English 0631 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow Aug 13 KYODO -- Foreign Ministers Shintaro Abe of Japan and Andrey Gromyko of the Soviet Union will hold talks when they visit New York this fall to attend the U.N. General Assembly session, it was agreed here Saturday.

The agreement was reached when Abe, making a brief stopover here on his way home from his East European and Middle East tour Saturday night (early Sunday Japan time), was met by Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa at the airport.

According to informed sources, Kapitsa also told Abe during the meeting that Gromyko is aware that it is "now his turn to visit Japan" for regular Japan-Soviet foreign ministers consultation. Japanese Foreign Ministry officials accompanying Abe said Kapitsa's remark indicated a turn for the better in the Soviet policy toward Japan. The Soviet Union insisted in the past that Gromyko's Japan visit would be impossible under the current circumstances, the officials pointed out.

Kapitsa was further quoted as telling Abe that Japan and the Soviet Union should try to expand their bilateral economic relations which would be good for both countries. According to the sources, Abe said in reply that he felt the need of direct dialogue between Japan and the Soviet Union, although, he said, the bilateral relations are now in a "severe condition." He agreed to a view that the bilateral economic relations should be expanded, but Abe pointed out due attention should be given to political differences between the two countries, they said.

Touching on Abe's visit to Hokkaido to inspect the Soveit-held island off the eastern coast scheduled for August 20, Kapitsa expressed the hope that Abe would not make an anti-Soviet remark, they added.

ABE'S 'NORTHERN TERRITORIES' INSPECTION VIEWED

OW130531 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Vykhukhalev report]

[Text] The Japanese Foreign Ministry announced on 10 August that Foreign Minister Abe would inspect the northern territories from 20 to 22 August. In this connection, Radio Moscow's Tokyo correspondent Vykhukhalev has filed the following report:

At first, the Foreign Ministry's announcement gives the impression that the feigned territorial issue still remains the number one consideration of the Japanese Government, and that the territorial claim on the Soviet Union is one of the key subjects of Japan's policy. It is quite obvious, however, that the nonexistent territorial issue has always been raised without any intention of settling it.

Japanese leaders have made identical inspection tours many times: In September, 1981, former Prime Minister Suzuki visited an area close to the northern territories. And just 1 year before Foreign Minister Abe's scheduled inspection tour, former Foreign Minister Sakurauchi made the same tour. Nevertheless, these provocative inspection tours have failed to arouse any question about the minor Kurile Islands being legitimate territories of the Soviet Union. And foreign Minister Abe's coming tour will end with the same result.

It is beyond doubt, that the inspection tour has other designs: One of them is to further complicate Soviet-Japanese relations, which are not in good standing at this time, and prevent the discussion of truly urgent issues concerning the strengthening of good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

When properly examined, however, this design has some logic of its own. As far as the Japanese Governmentis concerned, it seems to be advantageous to make its northern neighbor look like an enemy that rejects the return of the four Japanese islands under its occupation. The deeper this distorted image is rooted in the minds of the Japanese people, the easier it will be to implement its policies of rearming the country, abolishing the three non-nuclear principles and revising the peace-oriented constitution in a retrogressive way. In this way Foreign Minister Abe's inspection tour is intended to give a new impetus to the official campaign to arouse antipathy among the Japanese people toward the Soviet Union.

What also merits attention is that Foreign Minister Abe's inspection tour coincides with defense chief Tanikawa's visit to Washington. Director General Tanikawa of the Defense Agency made a similar inspection tour to the northern territories only last June. As a result, for the first time Japan's territorial claim on the Soviet Union contains a military aspect.

Foreign Minister Abe's inspection tour is obviously designed to demonstrate to the United States that Japan is tough in its anti-Soviet stand and should thereby win words of praise from the United States. This, however, will only harm the interests of the cause to strengthen peace and stability in Asia. It is incomprehensible that the Japanese Government stands ready to take the blame for such a turn of events which is definitely prejudicial to the interests of Japan herself.

JAPANESE AID TO ASIAN COUNTRIES ASSAILED

LD122013 Moscow World Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Excerpts] When the Australian foreign minister was recently visiting Tokyo, the KYODO news service claimed he had called on the Japanese Government to increase its aid to Pakistan, Thailand and other strategically positioned countries in Asia. Here's what the Soviet journalist Viktor Vinogradov says about this.

The Australian foreign minister, far from calling on Tokyo to increase its aid to Pakistan and Thailand, plainly said that this would destabilize the situation in Asia and the Pacific. The regime of General Ziaul Haq has launched military preparations on a scale unseen, using nearly 60 percent of the national budget for the purpose. This makes it overlook the motives behind Tokyo's willingness to spend great funds to help Asian nations militarize. But these motives deserve to be examined, especially by those Asian countries which the Japanese leader say to be part of Japan's sphere of influence.

Observers note that Japan is increasingly acting as a banker for pro-American regimes in Asia. It's advanced 4,000 million dollars to South Korea, a country turned by its military leaders into a bridgehead for the American military.

Japan's aid to Thailand too is showing a fast growth. Bangkok is using Japanese money to buy large amounts of weapons from the United States, and thus turn its border with Kampuchea into a powder keg. What's more, Tokyo has offered to foot the expense of militarizing Pakistan, whose territory is being used to wage the undeclared war against Afghanistan, and which itself poses a threat to India.

The Japanese leaders are obviously conniving at Washington's aggressive designs (?on) Asia. In an effort to stem the tide of protests in Asia against Tokyo's connivance with pro-American regimes, Japanese propaganda is trying to justify the Nakasone cabinet's policy in Asia. In so doing, it doesn't stop at distorting statements by members of friendly governments.

CARRIER MIDWAY ARRIVES IN YOKOSUKA FOR REPAIRS

LD131009 Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] Tokyo August 13 TASS -- The U.S. attack aircraft carrier "Midway" arrived today in the Japanese port of Yokosuka, the main U.S. navel base in the Far East. According to the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency, the ship will stay at the port for two months for maintenance and repairs. To retain a high level of combat preparedness of the planes based on the aircraft carrier, they have been lifted to U.S. Air Forces bases in Japan where they will continue intensive training flights, including night flights. Japan's peace supporters believe that this move bears witness to the implementation of the decision of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone of Japan to turn the country into an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" for the Pentagon.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS IN SOUTH KOREA 'FARCE'

SK140912 Moscow in Korean to Korea 1130 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] The so-called amnesty by Chon Tu-hwan of the Seoul regime for political prisoners has become a frequently perpetrated political farce. As has been reported, the Seoul regime released only those who had participated in the antigovernment demonstrations. But they will be sent to the army or [words indistinct].

The Chon Tu-hwan regime has not lifted the ban on the political activities of former politicians as yet.

In recent months alone, some 400 political activists out of office have been arrested. These activists were struggling against Chon Tu-hwan's dictatorship and for democracy in South Korea.

ZIMYANIN ATTENDS FAREWELL FOR KARMAL AFTER VISIT

LD150824 Moscow TASS in English 0813 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS -- Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA), who has been in the Soviet Union, left for home today.

At the airport he was seen off by Mikhail Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and by other officials.

Among the send-off party was Habib Mangal, the ambassador of the DRA to the USSR.

AFGHAN ARMY, MILITIA DESTROY 'CUT-THROATS'

LD150843 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0104 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] In Afghanistan the army, the National Sarandov [Soviet-trained] People's Militia forces, and detachments of the defense of the revolution in Herat Province have destroyed a band of cut-throats sent from Pakistan, who were terrorizing the local populace. A large quantity of weapons including heavy and anti-aircraft machineguns and grenade launchers, and also documents, testifying to the counter-revolutionaries' links with special services of Pakistan and certain western powers, were taken from the bandits.

FORMER AFGHAN REBEL ON TRAINING IN PAKISTAN

LD130133 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] According to reports in the Afghan press, the Afghan security forces and people's militia are defeating further counterrevolutionary gangs, and many former members of such gangs are coming over to the side of the people's power. Our Kabul correspondent (Dmitriy Khavin) reports:

The gangleaders of the Afghan counterrevolution and their imperialist sponsors are responsible not only for the death of numerous quite innocent victims and thousands of mutilated human lives, but for the monstruous deception which they use to push people into a senseless fratricidal war. In the Paghman District center, I met (Abdul Nasir), former member of the Etehad [Unity] gang. Having realized the senselessness of fighting against the people's power, Abdul and several of his friends, with their arms, came over to its side. Here is what (Abdul Nasir) said:

[Begin recording in vernacular, fading to Russian translation] I had special training in a paramilitary camp in Pakistan. There the instructors, among whom were Americans and Pakistanis, taught us to handle all kinds of modern weapons. They also taught us to obey our gang leaders unconditionally. This meant to destroy bridges and roads, houses, schools, and mosques. On the orders of the gangleaders, the gang member would kill quite innocent people and humiliate them. We were told all this is necessary because now in Afghanistan the sacred religion of Islam is in danger. All this is a monstruous fraud. I became convinced through my own experience that all this is a lie. Now to the end of my days I shall serve my motherland and its people [end recording]

The new awareness of people like (Abdul Nasir) is brought about to a large degree by the activities of the people's power in the areas liberated from the dushmans. Here the work of local authorities, hospitals, and schools is returning to normal. The peasants get help in rebuilding the irrigation network, and in gathering the harvest; they get supplies of foodstuffs and essentials. Thus peaceful life is returning to the villages.

GOLDIN SPEAKS AT CEREMONY ON SOVIET-INDIAN TIES

LD111817 Moscow TASS in English 1800 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow August 11 TASS -- "Soviet people are full of determination to continue to strengthen the ties of friendship and fruitful cooperation with the Indian people for the good of our countries, in the interests of strengthening peace in Asia and throughout the world," stated Minister of the USSR Nikolay Goldin, president of the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society. He spoke today at a ceremonial function in Moscow in the occasion of the 36th anniversary of India's independence and the 12th anniversary of the treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries.

Having recalled that U.S. imperialist circles and their allies devise plans for world domination and recklessly push mankind to the verge of a nuclear disaster through their aggressive policy, the minister stated: "Of immense international importance are concrete Soviet-Indian initiatives which are being put forward in various international organizations and the concerted efforts to give a resolute rebuff to aggressors, to uphold the interests of young states and to ensure lasting and reliable peace in Asia and around the world. Taking it into account that the vast region of the Indian Ocean is the target of international imperialism's aggressive course, the USSR together with India calls for making the region a zone of peace."

Soviet-Indian relations are based on the 1971 treaty which "is not directed against any third country and does not limit the USSR's and India's possibilities to establish good-neighbourly relations and fruitful cooperation with other states," Nikolay Goldin emphasized.

Shila Kaul, Indian minister of state for education, culture and social security, the leader of a delegation of the "Friends of the Soviet Union" society, A.N. Madhavan; charge d'affaires ad interim of the Republic of India to the USSR, Ch. Aranganayagam, Tamil Nadu minister of education, the leader of a delegation of the India-Soviet cultural society, emphasized that the 1971 treaty embodies the traditional friendship between the two countries and peoples. [sentence as received]

ANDROPOV REPORTEDLY ANSWERED DUBCEK LETTER

AU141910 Rome ANSA in English 0810 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] (ANSA) -- Rome, August 13 -- Soviet Leader Yuriy Andropov and the former secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Alexander Dubcek exchanged correspondence, according to Socialist deputy to the European Parliament Jiri Pelikan in a documentary to be aired this evening on Italian television.

Pelikan, former head of Prague Television, escaped Czechoslovakia after the Warsaw Pact invasion of his country in August 1968 and is now an Italian citizen.

In the course of the documentary, Pelikan asserts that Dubcek wrote Andropov when the former KGB leader was elected secretary of the Soviet Communist Party last November and received a brief reply. According to Pelikan, the exchange of letters could be interpreted as "a sign that the new Soviet leadership does not rule out an evolution of the regime in Czechoslovakia, although in the long run". The European Parliament deputy added that "Dubcek, who now lives as a pensioner in Bratislava, remains a reference point for a change".

BULGARIANS CLAIM ANTONOV FALSELY IMPRISONED

LD111936 Moscow TASS in English 1923 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Sofia August 11 TASS -- The BULGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY (BTA) has put out a booklet "Set Antonov Free" which discloses the falsity of assertions of Western propaganda on involvement of the Bulgarian citizen in the attempt on the life of the Pope in May 1981 and expresses the pressing demand that S. Antonov, who was illegally arrested and is now kept in an Italian prison, be set free.

In the booklet it is noted that the Western anti-Bulgarian campaign is masterminded by persons who held or hold high posts in the American Administration -- Secretary of State George Shultz, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and also former U.S. presidential Adviser for National Security Affairs Zbigniew Brzezinski.

New forces, including the CIA, joined the anti-Bulgarian and the anti-Socialist campaign, since the "testimony" of the Turkish terrorist Agca, now kept in an Italian prison, burst like a soap bubble. Therefore, a new hurriedly concocted canard was released on S. Antonov's "involvement" in espionage. It is clear, BTA stresses, that the campaign of slander against socialist Bulgaria and the Soviet Union is necessary to the American Administration and the NATO countries to poison the international atmosphere and to weaken the growing movement of peoples against the Washington-unleashed arms race, to divert the attention of the world public from plans of deploying American nuclear missiles on the territory of Western Europe.

As was stated by the BTA Editor-in-Chief B. Traikov, the detention of the citizen of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and accusations against him were planned as political provocation against Bulgaria and the socialist community, which has disgracefully failed. There is only one reasonable solution -- to release S. Antonov without delay.

RUSAKOV MEETS WITH GDR PARTY OFFICIAL SIEBER

PM150843 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Meeting at CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] On 4 Augst K.V. Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received G. Sieber, member of the SED Central Committee and chief of the SED Central Committee International Relations Section, who was in Moscow for consultations on questions of interparty cooperation. O.B. Rakhmanin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee section, and E. Winkelmann, GDR ambassador to the USSR, participated in the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship characteristic of relations between the CPSU and the SED.

RYABOV CONFERS WITH POLISH METALLURGY MINISTER

PM141850 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 83 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading: "Meeting, Talks"]

[Text] On 10 August a talk took place between Ya. P. Ryabov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and E. Lukosz, Polish minister of metallurgy and machine industry. There was a discussion of questions of Soviet-Polish economic and technical cooperation.

PASSENGER CATAMARAN FOR USSR LAUNCHED IN GDANSK

PM111401 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 83 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Passenger Catamaran"]

[Text] The launching ceremony of a ship built for the Soviet Union has taken place at the Wisla River wharf in Gdansk. A passenger catamaran came off the stocks -- the first of a series of ships of this type being built here for the USSR.

The novelty among Polish ships is distinguished by an unusual design: The ship has two hulls. They are 39 meters long and 12 meters wide. The catamaran will be able to carry 360 passengers, in comfort. By the end of 1985 the Gdansk shipyard collective has pledged to build two more such ships for the Soviet passenger fleet.

MOSCOW OBSERVES ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY WITH FRG

Treaty 'Foundation' of Ties

PM121337 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent A. Grigoryants report: "An Important Factor for Stability"]

[Text] Bonn -- The palette of Soviet-West German ties is notable for its breadth and diversity. Leafing through my notebook, I look at my notes just for the last few days. The (Mannesman) rolling mills in Muelheim have received a new order from the Soviet Union for the manufacture of large-diameter pipes. Tallinn held a successful Festival of Kiel, a large city on the FRG's Baltic coast. In Bonn's A. Koenig Museum an exhibition has opened on the theme of "Contemporary Soviet Landscapes."

Three items from the calendar for August -- a month which, among other things, is regarded here as a time of respite in all spheres of life. But as you can see, the diverse ties between our countries have no vacations; they have acquired an internal dynamic of great force. It is particularly apposite to mention this now, on the anniversary of the USSR-FRG treaty signed in Moscow 12 August 1970.

Today there is every reason to state that the Moscow treaty provided a firm foundation for a radical improvement in Soviet-West German relations, made it possible to direct them into a normal channel on the basis of mutual respect and recognition of the territorial and political realities established as a result of World War II and postwar developments, and gave perceptible impetus to the process of relaxation of tension on the continent.

In signing that historic document our country was guided by its invariable sincere desire to live in good-neighborliness and concord with the Federal Republic. The Soviet Union attached and continues to attach priority significance to relations with the FRG. "Peaceful, businesslike cooperation between the USSR and the Federal Republic," Yu.V. Andropov said in answer to the magazine DER SPIEGEL, "is a significant factor for stability in Europe and in international life as a whole. I believe it is in the interests of both the FRG and the Soviet Union to safeguard this. A basis exists for this, a good basis. It is the Moscow treaty and a whole series of other agreements concluded by our countries in the seventies. It is the jointly accumulated experience of practical cooperation in various spheres."

In the time since the signing of the Moscow treaty much has been done to strengthen trust between our peoples and develop mutually advantageous economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and other ties.

Political contacts are held constantly, first and foremost between the two states' leaders. The talks in Moscow during the recent visit to the USSR by Federal Chancellor H. Kohl were businesslike and rich in content. The talks reaffirmed the possibility of developing mutually advantageous ties in various spheres and provided an opportunity to discuss international issues. Despite the divergence in the sides' positions on a number of important problems, the frank exchange of opinions was useful. The sides agreed that contacts with each other will be maintained in the future.

An important, constant subject of discussions is economic cooperation. This has been developed substantially in the last 10 years: mutual trade turnover has increased considerably. In terms of cost, it has increased more than eightfold in the last 10 years. Throughout the decade the FRG has ranked first in the Soviet Union's trade with Western countries. If you look at the list of goods which the sides exchange, it becomes obvious that the two states' economies successfully complement each other. And this trade is particularly important for the FRG in the present conditions, when the West's economy is experiencing a recession.

Alongside the quantitative growth in trade and economic ties, qualitative changes are also taking place. An increasingly large place is occupied by large-scale and long-term projects, including those on a barter basis. They already account for one-fifth of the total trade turnover. Suffice it to recall the participation by FRG firms in the construction of the Oskol electrometallurgical combine, the polyester fibers combine, the Sayany aluminum plant, and so forth.

The time which has elapsed since the signing of the Moscow treaty has on the whole substantially furthered the rapprochement between the two peoples and the elimination of the deep gulfs which divided them for a long time. This process has been considerably promoted by cultural exchange, the development of links and cooperation between trade unions and women's and youth organizations, sporting contacts, tourism, and partnership between cities.

In a word, time has confirmed the vitality and effectiveness of the Moscow treaty and its advantageousness to both sides and to the cause of peace in Europe. Since August 1970 our countries have traveled a significant, fruitful path in the development of good relations between them. Our country advocates that these ties continue to be developed positively in the interests of the peoples of both countries and the whole of Europe.

But can the horizon of our relations be said to be pure and cloudless? Unfortunately not. There are difficulties. But on consideration you can see that their sources lie mainly outside the sphere of bilateral Soviet-West German relations and are engendered by the present Washington administration's course of the unrestrained arms race and its attempts to turn the West European NATO allies, first and foremost the FRG, into accomplices in its senseless and dangerous policy of confrontation. The United States is launching a new round in the nuclear arms race in Europe which threatens unpredictable consequences, in the attempt to bring about a radical change in the strategic situation on the continent to the detriment of the vital interests of the USSR and its allies. This is the purpose of the NATO "arms upgrading," in the course of which it is planned to turn FRG territory into a launch pad for American first-strike nuclear weapons targeted on the socialist states. In essence this would mean reviving the threat of a war being unleashed against the USSR from German soil.

As the West German chancellor was told in Moscow, the Soviet Union finds it hard to understand what the FRG hopes to gain from the deployment of American missiles on its territory and the oversaturation of the center of Europe with all types of weapons of mass destruction. After all, it is obvious that when the Pershing-2's and Tomahawks appear on the banks of the Rhine the military danger to the FRG will be multiplied. Certain complications in relations between our two countries will also be inevitable and the general atmosphere on the continent will deteriorate sharply.

But there is still the possibility of averting this dangerous step and reaching an honorable, mutually advantageous agreement, making it possible, instead of building up medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, to considerably reduce them and thus greatly improve the situation on our continent and worldwide. However, success obviously depends to a considerable degree on the FRG's stance and its readiness to promote this course, so that the opportunity is not lost.

Europe is at a fork in the road: one fork leads to cooperation, the other to confrontation. What choice it makes depends on the common sense and goodwill of all the European states. The detente process in Europe is inconceivable without the cooperation, whose foundations were laid by the Moscow treaty, between the Soviet Union and the FRG. That is why giving further life to that treaty will be beneficial to both our peoples, to every European, and to all mankind.

Missiles 'Cloud' Relations

LD122122 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 83

[From the Vremya newscast; talk by political observer Eduard Mnatsakanov]

[Text] Hello, comrades! Anyone who travels the busy highway from Cologne to Bonn cannot fail to notice the words: Ratify the Moscow treaty. May there be good-neighborly relations with the USSR. These words, inscribed in enormous white letters on the wall of a nearby industrial enterprise back in the 1970's, have been diligently painted over by certain people year after year. Even more diligent hands, however, have renovated the inscription each time. This is symbolic. In the Federal Republic there have always been forces, and they have now become particularly active, trying to consign to oblivion the historic treaty that was signed in Moscow. However, the beneficial effect of that treaty, the very multifaceted practice of its implementation, and the all-round, mutually-advantageous cooperation between our two states have invariably turned out to be stronger.

Yes, over those 13 years the Moscow treaty has proved its vitality, for it is in accordance with the vital interests of our countries and the interests of European peace and security. The new FRG Government has officially stated that it will adhere to the provisions of the Moscow treaty. During the recent talks of Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher in Moscow, the West German side spoke in favor of further expanding our constructive cooperation, and all the objective prerequisites for this exist.

It is no secret to anyone, however, that there is a serious cloud over these bright prospects today. With the consent of the FRG Government, the U.S. military would like to turn West Germany into a launch pad for their nuclear missiles aimed against our country and its allies. But is this really in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Moscow Treaty? And is it not clear that implementation of the NATO plans will seriously complicate the international situation, increase the danger of war for the FRG and have an adverse effect on Soviet-West German relations? How can there be talk of good-neighborliness through a palisade of missiles?

Having signed the Moscow treaty in August 1970, the FRG embarked on the path of peace and detente. History has shown that this was the right choice, and it is to be hoped that in the 1980's, too, Bonn will show enough prudence not to turn off that path.

SUDAN 'BRIDGEHEAD' FOR U.S. ANTI-LIBYAN ACTION

LD132349 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 13 Aug 83

[From "The Window on the Arab World" program by Aleksey Zlatorunskiy]

[Text] Washington shamelessly speaks of Sudan as a suitable base for its armed forces to carry out armed provocations against the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the patriotic forces in Chad. The official Pentagon spokesman, General Walter Cousland, stated that the U.S. military units were dispatched to Sudan at the request of its government and in accordance with its wish. He also stated that 500 U.S. military experts are working in Sudan. There are in the country also AWACS aircraft, F-15 fighters refueling planes and aircraft equipped with special spying and monitoring instruments. In answer to a question on the aim for sending U.S. Air Force units, he said: They are for the specific purpose of spying on Libya and monitoring negotiations that take place in the Libyan Army. [sentence as heard] Regarding the fighter planes, according to Walter Cousland, they will protect the AWACS aircraft during their flights over Chad directly near the Libyan border.

This is a very clear statement and raises the following question: Does the Sudanese leadership not realize that allowing the U.S. military to use Sudanese territory and to transform the country into a bridgehead for sabotage and provocative action against a neighboring Arab country is a matter that places Sudan in an embarrassing situation? Does Khartoum believe that such action will do Sudan's reputation any good in the Nonaligned Movement or in the Arab League? The path now pursued by the Sudanese leadership constitutes primarily a threat to Sudan and will always lead to the violation of Sudan's sovereignty and to binding it to the U.S.-Isreali strategic alliance. The United States now benefits from using Sudan as a bridgehead for sabotage activities against Libya. Will Sudan not be used tomorrow for activities against some Arab or African country or against one of the national liberation movements; in brief, against any force that opposes Washington's striving for domination?

Even nonpoliticians understand that this role allocated to Sudan is contrary to its interests and the interests of all Arab countries.

U.S. MIDEAST MILITARY PRESENCE CRITICIZED

PM121335 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 10 Aug 83 p 3

[Report by A. Zhukov: "The Pentagon Is Preparing To Pounce"]

[Text] Aden-Moscow -- It is a stone's throw from the little spot of Al-Hawf in the east of the South Yemen province of Al Mahrah to the Omani border. A 15-minute drive and we are at the extreme point of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. Several hundred meters from us can be seen the Omani Army observation posts, and still further away the Dhofar Mountains shine blue.

It is here, among high mountain ridges of impregnable strength, that the U.S. command has decided, on the bogus pretext of "defending the freedom of navigation and oil supplies," to construct a new base for the interventionist "Rapid Deployment Forces" to accommodate up to 50,000 servicemen. The construction of the Dhofar base will be completed by next year. With its commissioning the U.S. military plans to complete the creation of a "security ring" -- a chain of U.S. military bases -- around the Arabian Peninsula.

According to a report in the magazine ENGINEERING NEWS RECORD, which is closely linked with the U.S. military construction corporations, the Pentagon is preparing to spend $1.5 billion on creating and expanding military bases on the territory of Oman alone, which in Washington's plans ranks as the leading Rapid Deployment Forces outpost in the Persian Gulf.

Work is in full swing on the island of Masirah on installing an airfield capable of accomodating F-16 fighter-bombers carrying nuclear weapons. To supplement the initial agreement between the United States and Oman, an accord has been reached on the creation of a new base in Dhofar and an Air Force base at (Tarmanit) to accommodate heavy military transport aircraft. Special attention is being paid to the expansion of the naval base in Muscat, in the immediate vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz -- the gateway to the Persian Gulf -- which gives the United States control over the most important artery for the supply of oil to the capitalist world.

U.S. engineering troops have become firmly entrenched at Kenyan and Somali ports. The once neglected and minor ports of Mombasa, Berbera, and Mogadishu can now take gigantic ships, including aircraft carriers. The runways of the airfields there, where it is planned to station F-16 aircraft, have been widened and enlarged.

At the same time the Pentagon is also actively developing the Arab part of the eastern Mediterranean. Last spring a paratroop battalion of the U.S. Army 82d Airborne Division was stationed on the Sinai Peninsula under the sign of the "multinational forces," taking over from the Israeli troops there. The quarters of Beirut bombed by the Zionists were still smoldering when 1,200 Marines -- part of the Rapid Deployment Forces strike force -- landed on the Lebanese coast. However, even that is not all. It planned to continue expanding the U.S. presence in Lebanon.

Although Israel is not legally a U.S. military base, its role in the strategic plans of the U.S. command in the Near East is enormous. According to the U.S.-Israeli "Memorandum on Mutual Aid in the Field of Strategic Cooperation," signed 30 November 1981, Israel must, if hostilities are initiated, assume air cover for Sixth Fleet operations in transferring U.S. troops to the eastern Mediterranean. This alliance thus turns Israel into an appendage of U.S. imperialism's war machine, at the same time ensuring support for the Zionists' predatory plans against the Arabs. As the Israeli aggression against Lebanon has shown, Washington is prepared to support with all its might any military action by its ally. "After all, ultimately," the U.S. magazine FOREIGN POLICY noted, "Washington has reaped the benefit of Israel's military operation to an even greater extent than Israel itself."

The United States is not restricting itself to expanding its direct military presence in the Near East. Recently the transatlantic "friends" have been trying to foist a "Trojan horse" on the Arabs by resurrecting the bankrupt policy of creating blocs and inundating the Near East with an enormous quantity of armaments. According to figures from the U.S. magazine FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Near East countries' arms purchases from the United States comprise 40 percent of all arms trade in the region. The United States dispatches its military advisers and specialists to the Arab countries after the equipment. The advisers' tasks include "keeping a finger on the pulse" of events in these countries, or to be more precise, undertaking the ideological indoctrination of the Armed Forces, gathering intelligence, and servicing U.S. equipment. For instance, having sold Saudi Arabia 5 AWACS aircraft, the United States has sent to Saudi Arabia, in addition to the 1,000 U.S. servicemen already there, a further 800 men to service the aircraft and tracking and communication stations. All intelligence obtained by the system is received initially by the Americans and "processed" by them, and is only later passed on to Saudi Arabia.

Washington is trying to persuade the Arabs that a threat exists, allegedly emanating from the Soviet Union. That is why the White House is demanding "defensive measures" from the Arab countries. As one of these measures, the United States suggests creating a military bloc consisting of six Persian Gulf states.

At the White House's initiative and under its pressure, the capitals of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates are discussing a plan to resume the activity of the Arab military industry organization. Its aim is to create plants in Egypt for the joint production of aircraft, helicopters, missiles, and radar equipment under U.S. licenses. A possible theater of operations for all this equipment includes the Near and Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.

This course of Washington's is generating great anxiety among the Arab states' political circles. "The Arab countries," the KUWAIT TIMES newspaper writes, "must bear in mind that Washington is prepared, with the CIA's assistance, to provoke a crisis situation in the Persian Gulf region and exploit it as a pretext for military intervention."

The Pentagon leaders do not conceal the fact that they view possible hostilities in individual regions of the Near East, particularly the Persian Gulf, as a "pretext" for "wider" military clashes, without ruling out the possibility that these conflicts could grow into a world war. The strategy of blackmail, intimidation, and aggression with which Washington intends to back up and implement its imperial ambitions in the Near East are a direct threat to peace and security.

SYRIAN DELEGATION CONTINUES OFFICIAL SOVIET VISIT

Visits Moscow Friendship Hall

LD112039 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] A Syrian People's Assembly delegation led by Mahmud az-Zu'bi, member of the leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and chairman of People's Assembly, is paying a friendly and official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet. On 10 August the delegation visited the House of Friendship With Foreign Peoples in Moscow and looked into the activities of the Soviet societies for friendship and cultural ties with the countries of the Arab East and met its officials. At the friendship house the Syrian guests heard a talk about the Soviet social organization's multifaceted activities for strengthening and deepening Soviet-Arab and Soviet-Syrian friendly relation relations.

Addressing the guests, Zinaida Kruglova, chairwoman of the Soviet Friendship societies, said that the activity of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries fully agrees with Soviet international policy:

[Begin Kruglova recording in Russian fading into translation] You know, of course, of the Soviet Union's foreign political initiative aimed at securing the peoples' security and stopping the arms race. These initiatives are comprehensive and, naturally, respond to the current situation in the Middle East and aim at normalizing it. Zinaida Kruglova said that we cooperate with Syria -- government and people -- in the struggle to implement our country's proposals, and we offer this friendly country all the support it needs to successfully confront the imperialist-Zionist aggression. [end recording]

Mahmud az-Zu'bi, head of the Syrian delegation and chairman of the Syrian People's Assembly, delivered a speech at this meeting. Addressing the representatives of the Soviet public opinion, he said:

[Begin Az-Zu'bi recording] Respected comrades and friends, members of the Syrian Arab-Soviet Friendship Society, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, the members of the delegation, I would like to express pleasure and deep thanks for the warm welcome we have received here and been surrounded with since our arrival in Moscow yesterday. Believe me, comrades: When I am among you I feel as though I am among my family, friends, and comrades -- the same as when I am in Damascus or any village in Syria.

We in Syria highly appreciate the friendly Soviet Union's stands in all economic fields and its support for us in all economic, political, cultural, and military fields on the basis of solid friendship.

Our friendship now has a long history between our peoples, our governments, and our parties. Our friendship cannot be expressed in the friendship days or weeks that are marked here in Moscow and in Damascus. Our friendship is alive and significant. We see it in the roads, projects, electricity, the economy, and construction in all fields that the Soviet Union has contributed and helped us with.

Strong Ties Praised

JN111824 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (SANA) People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi and his accompanying delegation have visited Moscow municipality and met with Comrade Kolomin, first deputy mayor of Moscow.

Kolomin praised the strong ties between Syria and the USSR. He said that the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries has strengthened and deepened the friendship between them. He also praised Syria's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist Zionist-U.S. designs, and its stand which rejects all capitulatory solutions.

Comrade Mahmud az-Zu'bi said that the friendly USSR is a supporter of the peoples who struggle for the sake of their freedom and sovereignty. He praised the USSR's support for Syria's steadfastness in defending the Arab and the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights.

Az-Zu'bi expressed his hope for promoting the cooperation and friendship ties between Syria and the USSR in the service of the two countries and the interest of their peoples in their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The People's Assembly delegation has left for Estonia SSR on a visit of several days. The delegation will acquaint itself with the achievements and antiquities there and hold official meetings with a number of Soviet officials.

Arnold Kob, secretary of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium (name and title as received], and other state and party officials accompanied the delegation on its visit.

Meets Estonian SSR Official

JN112010 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Aug 83

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi and his accompanying delegation met today with Arnold Ryuytel, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet in Estonia SSR. After welcoming the People's Assembly speaker, Ryuytel asserted anew his country's support for the just Arab struggle led by Syria against the colonialist designs of U.S. imperialism and world Zionism which aim to dominate the Arab region and crush world liberation movements. He said: Despite the long distance between us, we join the friendly Syrian people in their continued struggle against the Israeli enemy which is supported by the United States. With its just struggle, Syria stands on the first line of confrontation and firmly and courageously opposes the intentions of the United States and Israel to impose their political and military hegemony on the Arab region.

People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi made a speech in which he thanked the Estonian SSR officials for the hospitality which he and his delegation received and said: We in Syria highly appreciate the role of the friendly USSR in support of our just struggle against U.S. imperialism and world Zionism which are trying through their expansionist designs to impose political and military hegemony on our region and threaten world peace and security. In his speech, Az-Zu'bi said that Syria will remain a strong impregnable fortress to the enemy and its aides and the solid defender of the Arab nation's issues and peace in the region and the whole world.

Talks in Tallinn

LD132052 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] A delegation of the Syrian People's Assembly, led by Az-Zu'bi, chairman of the Assembly, has spent a few days in the Estonian SSR. The delegation paid a visit to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the republic. The Syrian parliamentarians also conducted talks with Tallinn town ispolkom, and got to know something of the work of Estonian fishermen, and visited a number of industrial and agricultural enterprises.

ALIYEV, YAR HEALTH MINISTER EXCHANGE OPINIONS

LD121618 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow, August 12 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Geydar Aliyev today received Minister of Public Health of the Yemen Arab Republic Muhammad Ahmad al-Kibab who handed over a message from President of the Yemen Arab Republic 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Yuriy Andropov.

An exchange of opinions on some questions of bilateral relations and the situation in the Middle East was held in the course of the talk which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

ACTIVITIES IN CHAD DRAW CONTINUED COMMENT

Bovin on 'Outside Interference'

LD132031 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Aug 83

[From the Vremya newscast; talk by IZVESTIYA political observer Aleksandr Bovin]

[Text] The main and most dangerous feature of the events in Chad is the increasing involvement of outside forces in the conflict, primarily those of the United States and France. The U.S. conduct fully accords with the White House's overall policy, which is oriented toward strengthening U.S. military presence wherever possible. The official motive the Americans cite is to counteract Libya. In Washington they say that if an Oueddei government is installed in Chad, backed by the radical Libyan regime, this will lead supposedly to a destabilization of the situation in Central and West Africa which is incompatible with the vital interests of the United States.

As a political alibi of sorts, the Americans offer the following thesis: We are operating in Africa as in the manner of an emergency force, they say, while the main leading role belongs to France. But France is in a rather awkward position. On the one hand everyone recalls Mitterrand's opposition to the African policy of Giscard d'Estaing and to armed intervention in the affairs of African countries. It is known in Paris that such operations are not all popular now. These circumstances are compelling Paris to show some restraint and caution.

But on the other hand, there are circumstances and people that are pushing France in another direction. First, there are fears in Paris that French passivity might result in a decline in its prestige and authority among the Francophone countries of Africa. And without its friends in Africa, LE MATIN wrote, France would not be a great power. Second, as in Washington, there is talk in Paris of the destabilizing influence of Libya. Third, it is impossible to ignore the mass pressure from the Americans. True, the French are doing all they can to show their independence but, as so often happens, while verbally distancing themselves from the Americans, the French are acting just as Washington wants: 500 paratroops are being sent to Chad.

Recently rumors have arisen to the effect that France wants to use its forces to displace the leadership in Ndjamena and install new people. In connection with these rumors, a statement has been issued in Tripoli saying that these new people, if there are to be any, must be acceptable, so to speak, first to Chad's neighbors and second to the Oueddei government.

Now as to the position of Libya, the Libyans have never denied that they have supported and are supporting the national liberation movement in Chad. It is also obvious that Libya's security also depends to a great extent on what the situation is in this republic, in Chad. It is no accident that Libyan representatives, with the agreement of all sides engaged in the conflict, have always participated in the search for national reconciliation. And Libya also formly rejects the assertion that Libya is intervening in Chad.

This is the picture now. The conflict is continuing, and we can say with certainty that the outside interference may prolong it and multiply the number of casualties in Chad.

Al-Qadhdhafi Interview

LD131029 Moscow TASS in English 0845 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] New York August 13 TASS -- The policy of the United States was aimed at destabilizing the situation in Libya and neighboring countries of North Africa, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, said in an interview with CNN television company. He stressed that Libya's aim was to bring about peace and stability in Chad. However, he noted, America was sending arms to Chad, kindling the flames of an armed conflict there.

Libya, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said, is strongly opposed to armed intervention of any foreign power, including the USA, into the Chad conflict, and believed that the armed conflict there could and should be settled by peaceful means, through negotiations involving all the sides concerned and without any interference on the part of external forces.

The leader of the Libyan revolution denied the West's allegations concerning Libya's military intervention in Chad.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi strongly condemned Washington's military provocations against Libya, and said that the USA would be repelled if it came to defending Libya's sovereignty and its frontiers. He said the United States had no right to falsely accuse Libya of intervention in Chad if the USA had bases through the world, for precisely U.S. military presence overseas was threatening international security. The USA, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said, had no moral right to talk about military intervention of any power, as it did just that itself.

U.S. Instigates 'Civil War'

LD150650 Moscow TASS in English 0635 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Tripoli August 15 TASS -- Libya takes no part in the current internal conflict in Chad. Statements on the part of the Habre regime and the Western media alleging so-called "Libyan intervention" in Chad are inventions through and through used by the Western countries, and above all the United States, for a broad internationalisation of the conflict in Chad and instigating a fratricidal civil war. This is said in a statement circulated here by the Transitional Government of National Unity of Chad. The statement says that intervetion in Chad is being carried out by Zaire, Sudan and Egypt which, with the help from France, have unleashed an open aggression against the people of Chad.

The Transitional Government of National Unity, the document says, has so far not applied to friendly countries for assistance, but the situation as it is shaping up now and the direct armed assistance being given by the imperialist states to the Habre regime may obligate the Transitional Government of National Unity to make such a request.

Reagan Demands on France

LD121651 Moscow TASS in English 1553 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Washington August 12 TASS -- Speaking at a press conference here, U.S. President Reagan made yet another provocative statement on the Chad question. He actually demanded that Paris should broaden direct armed interference in Chad. That country is above all the sphere of France's influence, said Reagan. The United States believes that Chad also belongs to "the zone of its interests". Reagan again made gross attacks against Libya, the policy of which does not suit Washington which is looking for the pretext for direct aggression against that African country. From the speech of the head of the American Administration it is clear that announcing nearly every region of the world a "zone of vital interests" of the United States, the White House believes it has the "right" to use military might where it pleases.

Reagan made it clear that the United States intends to prevent collapse of the Hissein Habre regime. He said that the fall of Faya-Largeau did not yet signify the end of the war. It is still far to Ndjamena where French paratroopers are, he said.

A representative of the Department of State welcomed the decision of Paris to send paratroopers to Chad. He said that the governments of the United States and France were conducting negotiations on the use in the war in Chad of French military aviation in cooperation with American AWACS planes. He evaded answering the question whether that meant that France has already agreed to use its Air Force in Chad. Besides, the representative of the Department of State reported about consultations between the American Administration and a big number of the countries of the region.

As is reported by the CBS television company with reference to White House staff, France is going to submit an ultimatum to Libya with threats to resort to force.

New York August 12 TASS -- Troops of the Transitional National Unity Government of Chad crushed and scattered in the desert troops of Hissein Habre after Faya-Largeau was taken. They cut the ways of retreat to the smashed units, with foreign mercenaries being on them. Habre units found themselves in the trap, the AP reports.

A commentator of the ABC television company emphasised that the victory of the armed forces of the Transitional National Unity Government signifies a heavy military defeat of the United States and France.

French Policy Assailed

LD141931 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 83 Morning Edition p 4

[Dispatch by own correspondent A. Krivopalov under the rubric "On a Topical Theme": "French 'Instructors' for Chad"]

[Text] Paris -- Since the decision was taken to send a French military contingent to Chad, several dozen paratroopers, termed "instructors," have already arrived there. According to figures published in the latest issue of LE MONDE, in the next few days over 300 paratroopers will be sent to that African country.

To reassure public opinion in France itself and beyond, a special announcement by National Defense Minister C. Hernu notes particularly that the subunits which are being sent to Ndjamena have, allegedly, been ordered to take no part in combat operations. But many people here are asking: Is not the idea of creating special "rapid deployment forces" in France now being tested in practice in Chad?

And so the "internationalization" of the internal conflict in Chad, which in their public statements France's official spokesman have so far seemingly feared, has now become even more obvious and serous. Under pressure from Washington, Paris has taken one more step along the path of submission to global U.S. strategy. This is noted by many observers on both sides of the Atlantic.

In this conflict France initially seemed to adopt a temporizing stance. At least, that was how it looked from the outside. Wholly supporting the actions of the United States -- which has decided to interfere flagrantly in the internal conflict in Chad -- and proceeding from its own aggressive imperialist neocolonialist interests, French diplomacy has tried to present matters as though what it wants to display above all is circumspection. Of course, government offices have realized that it is impossible to publicize oneself as a virtual guarantor of noninterference in foreign affairs and to send armed forces to Chad to fuel a very dangerous hotbed of tension in Africa.

The contradictory nature of France's foreign policy and the discrepancy between many statements and actions are too obvious to be overlooked, despite all the diplomatic and, indeed, not overinventive ploys. Many Paris commentators are now openly ironic about the "denials" issued until recently by eminent government spokesmen categorically denying that Paris and Washington are coordinating their joint policy with respect to Chad.

But despite all the assurances given in the city on the Seine, people across the ocean have continued to assert that both capitals are maintaining constant consultations between each other. Now, after the dispatch of the French contingent to Ndjamena, everything has become utterly clear.

The Paris newspapers point to the pressure which Washington has brought to bear on France, seeking from it "resolute actions" not restricted merely to the dispatch of military equipment. White House spokesmen have openly stated that Chad used to be a French colony and it is France which must "impose order there." Nonetheless it is not hard to surmise that were it not for the universal criticism of the aggressive U.S. adventures in Central America which have convincingly exposed the gendarme fictions Washington has assumed, the Americans would have managed without French participation in Chad. They do not conceal the fact that the United States is ready in principle to fill any political "vacuum" on the Black Continent. It is clear that it is also always ready to crowd out France in Africa. But for the present it needs French support. This is at the same time an attempt to tie Paris' hands.

But it would be wrong to depicit the French leaders right now merely as victims of Reagan's pressure. It is not only a question of Chad. The French Government, as has happened before, during the Israeli aggression in Lebanon, for instance, is continuing to help the United States in many acute international conflict. The present events in Chad merely confirm that trend. It is no accident that the Paris newspaper LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS, which itself take a pro-U.S., pro-NATO stance, has been unable to forgo the pleasure of noting maliciously in a commentary devoted to the dispatch of the French contingent to Chad: "You get the impression that since the May summit in Williamsburg, where the French head of government bowed to U.S. power by signing the declaration on Euromissiles, Paris' policy has been becoming increasingly favorable toward Washington."

French CP Figures Speak Out

LD122206 Moscow TASS in English 1808 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Paris August 12 TASS -- In an interview to French television, member of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party Roland Leroy said that the development of the situation in Chad was giving rise to concern. We feel concern since we believe that African countries expect from France something different than the dispatch of troops to Chad, he stressed.

The way of intervention the outcome of which one cannot predict does not accord with France's interests, said member of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party Jean-Claude Gayssot, speaking on "Radio Monte Carlo". It is in the interests of France to promote the quest for a peace political settlement of the problem.

The United States bears responsibility for the internationalization of the conflict in Chad. This was stated here by the French Association of Friendship and Solidarity with African peoples. The organization expressed concern at the dispatch of French paratroopers to Chad. The government, the document stresses, should not exceed the limits of the agreement, dated 1976, between France and Chad, which rules out involvement of French troops in combat actions in Chad.

U.S. African Maneuvers, Chad

LD131959 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1145 GMT 13 Aug 83

[From the "International Review" program presented by Viktor Mikheyev]

[Text] The past week has witnessed a stepping-up of American interference in the affairs of the African state of Chad. Imperialist circles have for several years now been trying to reestablish their one-time control over this state with the aid of their agents headed by Habre. These scenes you see here were shot in Chad. Up to 1960 Chad was a French colony. With support from the imperialists, Habre managed to topple the legit'mate government of Goukouni Oueddei approximately a year ago. But a year of repressions against supporters of an independent Chad has not brought Habre consolidation of his power. At the present time, the forces of the legitimate authorities of Goukouni Oueddei have been stepping up the struggle against the West's point man, Habre, and in fact are being given support by all progressive forces in Africa. And so, to save its point man, the United States dispatched warplanes first to Sudan, while France took the decision to move into Chad about 300 of its landing troops, which you see on your screens. The French Government, as in the past in Lebanon, is continuing to be assisted by the United States. In the area of Khartoum, the United States has set up headquarters to coordinate flights by warplanes, fighters among them. It is known that the United States is about to start military maneuvers in Sudan which will also encompass Somali and Egyptian territory. This is also directed against Chad.

It was reported today that the UN Security Council is continuing to discuss the situation that has developed around Chad. The Soviet Union resolutely condemns the escalation of imperialist interference and demands that a prompt end be put to interventionalist actions

The new American maneuvers in Africa represent a kind of rehearsal for a big war. The notorious Rapid Deployment Forces will be taking part in these maneuvers. Hundreds of tanks, armored cars, anti-aircraft installations and artillery pieces have already been moved into Egypt. A sqaudron of American warships is cruising off the coast of Libya. Libya has asked for the urgent convening of the UN Security Council to discuss this latest interference by the United States in the affairs of countries of the Mediterranean, Near East and Africa. Imperialist propaganda is now spluttering and screaming over Libya' support for the patriotic forces in Chad who are headed by the legitimate head of government, Goukouni Oueddei. Yet it is precisely the West that began meddling in Chad's internal affairs by supporting the bourgeois point man, Habre. Well, in such cases the West generally treats its interference as something quite logical. It was reported today that the UN Security Council has completed its discussion of the question of U.S. military provocations against Libya. A majority of delegates stressed that the Security Council must take urgent measures to reduce tension in the region and put an end to U.S. provocative actions.

Egypt's Ghali Defends U.S.

LD121834 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Role of the Defender of Interventionists"]

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, has taken it upon himself to achieve what cannot be achieved, namely, to prove that U.S. intervention in Chad will not intensify the tension in the heart of Africa. In a statement to the French LIBERATION, he claimed that this intervention will not pose any threats to African countries. These statements of the Egyptian minister are made despite the anger of many African and Arab countries over the imperialist intervention in Chad led and directed by the United States.

This alone should have forced the Egyptian minister to refrain from speaking on behalf of the African countries. However, the matter does not stop here, Dr Ghali's statements came after French troops began to enter Chad at the insistence of the United States. This is at a time when the United States itself provides Chad with arms and advisers, and sends planes and troops to neighboring Sudan. There are 500 U.S. military men in Sudan. Is not this an intervention in Chad and a threat to this country's sovereignty and independence and those of the neighboring countries too? Naturally, the United States tries to suppress this fact by all means and to ascribe responsibility for events in Chad to others, for example, Libya. This is what the U.S. representative at the UN Security Council did during the discussion of the situation in Chad. She reached illogical heights when she said that it was Libya, not the United States, that wanted to spread its control on Africa. However, even these hilarious conclusions of Washington received support from Dr Butrus Ghali, who decided to become a defender of Washington to the end. It has emerged that he too cannot perceive the real U.S. threat, yet perceives the imagined Libyan threat regarding events in Chad.

SOUTH AFRICA BOMBS, DESTROYS ANGOLAN TOWN

LD150907 Moscow TASS in English 0633 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Luanda August 15 TASS -- The Air Force of the racist Republic of South Africa heavily bombed on Sunday the town of Cangama (Moxico Province), the Angolan news agency ANGOP quoted the Defence Ministry of the People's Republic of Angola as saying. As a result of the brutal bombing the town was completely destroyed.

Simultaneously, ANGOP said, nearly 10,000 South African troops were concentrated in Angola's southern provinces in the course of the day.

Then the South African tactical groups were advanced northward from Angola's southern areas.

The sharp aggravation of the situation in the south of Angola has been caused by the implementation of the plans of the South African militarists for rendering assistance to anti-Angolan counter-revolutionary groupings, which suffered a crushing defeat near Cangama on August 2-10 this year as a result of successful combat operations by the units of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA). In the course of that operation an attempt was foiled on UNITA gangs at capturing the town. Some 1,100 bandits were killed.

The concentration of South African troops in the north of Angola and their advancement deep into the country's territory, in the direction of Moxico Province, ANGOP stresses, marks the start of a new large-scale aggression of the South African military against the People's Republic of Angola. The agency points out that the South African Air Force used napalm in bombing a number of populated localities in Southern Angola.

REAGAN, DE LA MADRID DISCUSS C.A., RELATIONS

LD150538 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Washington August 15 TASS -- U.S. President Reagan and Mexican President De La Madrid met on Sunday in La Paz (Mexico). The chief item on the meeting's agenda was the situation in Central America. The CBS television network reports that the White House chief wishes to obtain from Mexico a "tacit support" for the policy pursued by Washington in the region. The Mexican President, however, warned Reagan that his stake on armed force is fraught with extremely serious consequences. The UPI news agency says that a joint communique which was expected on the results of the meeting was not issued.

Substantial differences also transpired in the discussion of other issues on the talks' agenda, including questions of the trade and economic relations between the two countries. The Mexican President expressed to Reagan his profound alarm that the financial policy of the U.S. Administration is having a deleterious effect on Mexican economy.

REAGAN REBUTS CENTRAL AMERICA POLICY DISTORTIONS

LD141900 Moscow TASS in English 1823 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] Washington August 14 TASS -- Speaking over the radio in El Paso (Texas), President Ronald Reagan was busy trying to convince the listeners that a considerable number of U.S. people are confused about his policy in Central America. He admitted that the authors of many letters to the White House point out that the USA does not take into account the lessons of history and that the administration supports dictators-tyrants that trample civil rights and freedoms. Reagan stated that such opinions are the result of distortion of the true goals of his policy. He asserted that the USA comes out for peaceful, democratic transformations in the countries of the region.

If one is to believe the President, the main advocates of democracy in Central America are the sanguinary dictatorial regimes to which Reagan promised further all-round support in his speech. Neither did he conceal that Washington feels particular "sympathies" for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries by reckoning them among "advocates of democracy".

From Reagan's broadcast it follows that the USA intends to continue to broaden military presence in Central America for a fight against national liberation movements and for armed interventions against states that have taken an independent way of development.

U.S. 'PROVOCATION' AGAINST SOVIET SHIP HIT

LD131423 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] On Thursday the United States Embassy in Moscow received a note from the Soviet Foreign Ministry. It contained a protest about the provocative actions of the United States naval vessels with respect to the Soviet merchant ship "Aleksandr Ulyanov," which was on routine commercial trip in the Pacific in the area of Central America. Here is a comment on this by our news analyst, Vladislav Kozyakov: There are universally accepted rules of the freedom of shipping which it is in the interests of all nations to respect and observe. Conversely, it has always been considered that encroachment on the freedom of shipping constitutes piracy, which is impermissable in international relations. But in Washington it is now evidently considered that international law, customs and moral principles apply to anyone but the United States. American naval vessels deemed it possible to commit patently provocative actions on the high seas with respect to a Soviet merchant ship.

Several United States destroyers and a frigate, whose registration numbers are listed in the Soviet note, drew up alongside the "Aleksandr Ulyanov" and interrogated it. On top of this a helicopter took off from one of the destroyers and made flights over the Soviet ship, taking pictures of it.

What right had the United States to act so? It is not hard to imagine what sort of a situation would arise on the high seas if all the other nations began to behave so provocatively. The Soviet Union has protested about these actions of the United States naval vessels describing them as provocative. In the Soviet note presented to the United States Embassy in Moscow it is said that these actions can only be regarded as undisguised lawlessness and dangerous arbitrary acts. It should be apparent to the United States Government, it is said in the note, that the entire responsibility for the possible consequences of such actions will rest squarely on the American side.

That Washington is indeed following a dangerous road of arbitrary actions in international relations is also, by the way, evident from the official reaction to the Soviet protest. A State Department spokesman, in a reference to the note, sought to justify the illegal actions of the American naval vessels. Such an attitude on the part of official Washington is scarcely surprising considering that the Pentagon, in the course of the present provocative naval exercises in Central America, has been instructed to practice the operations involved in subjecting sovereign nations to a naval blockade. Of course American leaders do pay lip service to the freedom of navigation and the safety of shipping. There have also been plenty of obviously false statements by the Reagan administration about some kind of a Soviet threat to the sea lanes. But the real threat to the freedom of shipping issues from elsewhere, from the United States itself. In peacetime it engages in naval exercises designed to cut international shipping lanes as effectively as possible. Nor does it shrink from lawless and arbitrary acts towards shipping by its destroyers and frigates as took place with respect to the "Aleksandr Ulyanov."

U.S. SAID EXPANDING CENTRAL AMERICAN MANEUVERS

LD150847 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] The U.S. military is expanding the scale of the provocative maneuvers that Washington is carrying out with Honduras in Central America. According to reports from the town of San Pedro Sula, situated in the north of Honduras, huge C-130 military transport aircraft are landing at the town's airport virtually every 10 minutes, loaded with tons of military equipment and machinery. At the same time, U.S. servicemen continue to arrive with every flight, and U.S. naval forces are conducting a show of strength on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the continent, in the immediate vicinity of the Nicaraguan coastline. The main aim of these military games is to exert crude pressure on the revolutionary people and Government of Nicaragua, who refuse to submit to the diktat of U.S. imperialism.

'ADVENTURIST' U.S. POLICY IN C.A. CRITICIZED

PM111850 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Aug 83 First Edition p 5

[Report by own correspondent G. Vasilyev: "A Dangerous Undertaking"]

[Text] Washington, 8 Aug -- The aircraft carrier "Ranger" -- a gray, sharp-nosed bulk with 70 combat aircraft on board -- sliced through the blue-green waters of the Pacific. The previous day the ship had left its home port of San Diego, California, and all the crew members from captain to cook thought that they were in for a pretty straightforward, routine voyage calling at Pearl Harbor, Singapore, and the Philippines. Suddenly the ship came about sharply and instead of continuing westward, headed southeast.

The "Ranger" was joined by seven other naval ships -- a cruiser, three destroyers, a frigate, a high-speed support ship and a tanker. The order was for the formation to immediately head for Central America, for the west coast of Nicaragua.

The alarm also rang on the decks of the battleship "New Jersey," veteran of the Pentagon's dirty war in Vietnam, which was cruising the familiar waters of Southeast Asia at the time. The ship, which was accompanied by 4 destroyers and a frigate, was also ordered to sail to the Pacific coast of Nicaragua to join the operational formation there, headed by the "Ranger." In the Mediterranean the U.S. aircraft carrier "Coral Sea" and its group of ships were also unexpectedly ordered to head for the Central American region, only to Nicaragua's other coast -- the east coast.

Preparations had already begun ten military bases throughout the United States. Thousands of officers and men -- "Green Berets," Marines and engineers -- had been ordered to prepare to participate in many months of "war games" in Honduras, which borders on Nicaragua, in conjunction with the naval show of deterrence.

The decision to conduct an extensive military operation in Central America was taken last week by the U.S. Administration without consulting the governments of the states where it is planned to hold the "maneuvers." The Honduran authorities were simply ignored. Their "consent" was received after the forthcoming maneuvers were announced.

The abrupt escalation of Washington's aggressive policy in Central America and the Caribbean is accompanied by a vociferous anticommunist campaign. In all his recent appearances President Reagan has talked about a "Soviet-Cuban-Nicaraguan axis" which has apparently set its sights on " seizing Central America", and he has tried to frighten his audiences by saying that the "Red peril" is nearing the southern borders of the United States, leading them to believe that Washington has no option but to take decisive steps without delay.

Having declared the national liberation movements a manifestation of "international terrorism," the U.S. Administration set itself the historically impracticable task of halting by hook or by crook the processes which are undermining the imperialists' omnipotence in the developing countries.

Recently the North American predator has been focusing attention on two small countries, El Salvador and Nicaragua. In the former, which has had an ongoing civil war for a long time, Washington's "public diplomacy and democracy" zealots unhesitatingly took the side of the cruel, repressive regime, saving it from inevitable collapse with its dollars military advisers, and guns. (During the present year more than $160 million have been allocated for this purpose). An undeclared war was launched against the latter whose people had voted through their revolutionary struggle for their chosen independent path of development. It is an American war, although at the moment it is being waged by former Somoza secret police and other counterrevolutionaries who fled the country and are now being trained by the CIA on the territory of neighboring Honduras.

The overt action of the U.S. military machine in Central America and the Caribbean is accompanied by increased covers U.S. interference in the affairs of the region's peoples. Local papers write that the CIA has elaborated plans to raise the number of Somozist mercenaries on the territory of Honduras from the present 7,000-8,000 to 12,000-15,000, and that the Pentagon has recommended that the White House double the number of U.S. military "advisers" in El Salvador and authorize them to "accompany" the ruling regime's forces during punitive operations; they report the program, elaborated by the CIA and the Pentagon and approved by the White House, to sharply increase subservice activity, including acts of sabotage on Nicaraguan territory. "The extensive plans for semi-military CIA actions in Central America," THE NEW YORK TIMES writes, "represent a major program of secret operations which the United States has been implementing since the Vietnam war."

The papers report that the Latin American public is alarmed because it believes that U.S. armed intervention could lead to a protracted military conflict involving many countries in the region. There are growing protests in Western Europe against the blatant adventurism of the "senior partner" in NATO. Many sober-minded Americans are also seriously concerned. One experienced Washington journalist said that "the specter of Vietnam is again confronting the country."

The anxiety of ordinary Americans was reflected on Capitol Hill. After a stormy debate the House of Representatives voted a few days ago, by a vote of 228 to 195, to stop financing the CIA's "secret activity against Nicaragua. But the administration was quick to state that it does not intend to implement its decision. It did not escape the public's notice that three former U.S. secretaries of state -- Dean Rusk, Cyrus Vance, and Edmund Muskie, former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, and former presidential national security assistant McGeorge Bundy -- called for an end to subversion in Central America and efforts to find a political settlement.

In an effort to parry the criticism, the White House announced the setting up of a "Bipartisan National Commission" on Latin America headed by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The President's decision was greeted by the press with undisguised irony. It is seen here as a propaganda stunt designed to obscure Americans' vision while the Pentagon's military operations get underway. As for bringing Kissinger out of political oblivion, people here immediately recalled the dark chapters in the man's career, such as his involvement in the overthrow of the Allende government in Chile and the systematic deception of the public during the Vietnam war.

The White House's dangerous "games" in Central America and the Caribbean have again demonstrated to the world the adventurist nature of the present U.S. Administration's policy and the fact that it is totally out of tune with the realities of our time. "The Reagan administration's response to any difficult political or diplomatic problem anywhere in the world" is to fall back on weapons, the well-known U.S. journalist John Oakes writes in THE NEW YORK TIMES. Millions of sober-minded Americans would, I believe, endorse this assessment.

U.S MAINTAINS C.A. 'INTERNATIONAL GENDARME' POLICY

PM141710 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 83 First Edition p 5

[Vadim Listov article under the rubric: "Our Commentaries": "Gendarme Role"]

[Text] Reports from Central America recall communiques from a theater of hostilities: military coup in Guatemala; armed struggle growing in El Salvador; maneuvers involving Army units, Marines, and aircraft beginning in Honduras; squadrons of warships stationed off the shores of Nicaragua.... In all these "operations" one of the "warring parties" is the United States.

Washington loves to profess its devotion to peace, its desire to promote the reconciliation of the conflict situation in Central America. But what is happening in reality? The concrete facts attest that the United States is not pursuing a political settlement of the explosive situation in the region, but a still greater exacerbation of the tension and a direct military confrontation with the forces of peace and progress. The Pentagon's design is clear: by provoking aggressive actions against Nicaragua to deal a blow to the Nicaraguan revolution and forcibly suppress the rebel movement in El Salvador and the national liberation struggle in Guatemala and Honduras, and at the same time, if successful, in other areas of the Caribbean Basin as well.

Take, for example, the major military maneuvers organized by the Pentagon in Central America. They are not just of a provocative nature, they can definitely be termed multipurpose.

Thus, although they have not yet begun, they have already borne the first "fruit" planned by the Pentagon and the CIA: the military coup in Guatemala. It is easy to see that Guatemala's new rulers will be assigned one of the strike roles in the implementation of Washington's imperial schemes in this region.

If this coup is viewed through the prism of Washington's Central American ambitions, it is not difficult to see that it is notable for its broad thrust. The anti-Nicaraguan nature of the coup is indisputable inasmuch as the new regime immediately declared that it would take an active part, together with El Salvador and Honduras, in the "triple alliance" being cobbled together by the Pentagon to deal with Nicaragua. On the other hand, the galvanization of the Guatemalan military is intended to reinforce the Salvadoran and Honduran rear and simultaneously nudge these countries' ruling juntas into still harsher reprisals against patriotic, opposition forces. Finally, Guatemala's inclusion in an aggressive block in Central America carries an objectively anti-Mexican thrust insofar as Mexico advocates -- both independently and within the framework of the "Contadora Group" -- the peaceful political settlement of the Central American crisis.

Other U.S. actions in Central America are also of a provocative nature, aimed not at the normalization, but at the deterioration of the international climate. Essentially they represent in toto nothing other than a new variety of imperialist intervention whereby under the guise of joint maneuvers the United States intervenes directly in its "allies'" internal affairs.

Moreover, there is no call for surprise here. "Intervention Reagan style" is the logical consequence of the "international gendarme" policy in pursuit of which the United States maintains 43 percent of the U.S. Army beyond its own borders, on foreign territories which sometimes are extremely remote from the United States. Such a policy is only capable of undermining peace and in no way of reinforcing international security.

ORTEGA, NUNEZ CRITICIZE PENETRATION OF NICARAGUA

LD150916 Moscow TASS in English 0735 GMT 15 Aug 83

[Text] Managua August 15 TASS -- The United States has started a new stage of the armed aggression against Nicaragua, stated Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the national leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front [SNLF], coordinator of the guiding council of the National Reconstruction Government of the republic. An increased penetration of Nicaraguan territory by counterrevolutionary groupings which are armed and financed by the CIA has been observed again of late, he said, speaking at an open session of the government in the city of Matagalpa. The Reagan administration in every way sabotages the peace initiatives of the "Contadora Group" member-countries and seeks to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. With this end in view the United States has surrounded Nicaragua by its warships and is setting Somocista bands against it. A possibility of a U.S. direct military intervention in Nicaragua and in El Salvador becomes increasingly probable. The people of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega emphasized, is ready to give a fitting rebuff to imperialist aggression.

Simultaneously with the escalation of the counterrevolutionaries' armed actions, the USA is stepping up "psychological warfare' against Nicaragua, Carlos Nunez Tellez, member of the national leadership of the SNLF, president of the republic's Council of State, has stated here. The U.S. "Voice of America" radio station and counter-revolutionary transmitters operating in states which neighbour on Nicaragua bring down torrents of subversive propaganda upon our country in an attempt to destabilize the Sandinista people's revolution, he said. Carlos Nunez has emphasized that Nicaragua intends to take reply measures to neutralise imperialism's ideological sabotage.

PRAVDA REPORTS ON CPSU POLITBURO SESSION

PM121943 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 83 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee Politburo"]

[Text] At its regular session the CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined and approved the results of the meeting between Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Comrade Alvaro Cunhal, general secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party. The unity of the two fraternal parties, confirmed during this meeting, on vitally important questions of the struggle for peace and for averting nuclear war, and their determination, likewise confirmed at the meeting, to continue to expand their fruitful cooperation on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, were rated highly.

The Central Committee Politburo examined the question of progress in the fulfillment of the targets of the Food Program for the development of the production, and increasing the deliveries to agriculture, of mineral fertilizers, and other means of chemicalization.

Reports [soobshcheniye] on this question were heard at the session from USSR Council of Ministers Deputy Chairmen L. A. Kostandov, Z. N. Nuriyev, and N. K. Baybakov, and Ministers A. G. Petrishchey, A. M. Tokarev, and P. F. Lomako. During the discussion, it was noted that despite an increase in tne output and an expansion of the range of fertilizers, the targets of the first half of the 5-year plan for their production were not fulfilled.

One of the basic reasons for this situation is both shortcomings in the work of the Ministry for the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, and above all as regards the development of the raw materials base and the utilization of production capacities, and also laggardness in the building of enterprises of the mineral fertilizers industry. The construction ministries are not paying sufficient attention to the building of installations for the production of chemicalization agents for agriculture.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo issued a warning to Minister A. G. Petrishchev for the unsatisfactory fulfillment of targets for the output of fertilizers and made it incumbent upon the ministry's collegium to eliminate the shortcomings in the work of the sector, and to make up the arrears that have developed in deliveries of fertilizers to kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The attention of the ministers, who have allowed work on building enterprises for the production of mineral fertilizers to fall behind, was drawn to the need to overcome laggardness in the building of installations for the production of mineral fertilizers and crop protection agents.

USSR Council of Ministers Deputy Chairmen L. A. Kostandov, Z. N. Nuriyev and N. K. Baybakov, with the participation of the relevant ministries, are instructed to draw up and implement specific measures which will ensure the complete fulfillment of the growing volume of work on increasing the production of mineral fertilizers and their rational utilization. The central committees of the communist parties of union republics, and the party kraykoms and obkoms are instructed to increase the efficiency of organizational work for mobilizing the collectives of enterprises and organizations for the fulfillment of these tasks.

The Politburo examined and approved the proposals drawn up by the USSR Council of Ministers for increasing the efficiency of heat and energy facilities of cities and other population centers in the country. Their implementation will provide an opportunity to considerably improve the provision of heat for cities and villages.

Other questions of domestic and international life were also discussed at the CPSU Central Committee Politburo session.

CPSU DECISION ON LOCAL POLITICAL GUIDELINES

LD131922 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Aug 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has adopted a decision on the holding of accounting sessions and elections in primary, rayon, city, okrug, oblast and kray party organizations. The decision stresses that matters concerning the activities of party organizations and their steering organs in implementing the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, of the Food and Energy Programs and of the decisions of the May and November 1982 and June 1983 plenums of the CPSU Central Committee should be made the focus of attention at meetings and conferences.

The main thing, the decision states, is to examine in practice how the party guidelines are being implemented with regard to the establishment of due order in production, an essential increase in labor productivity and its higher growth in comparison with wages, the reduction of costs and the improvement of the quality of output and the fulfillment of the plan for deliveries according to contracts and orders.

It is necessary during the accounting sessions and elections to take an exacting approach to the work of local organs in fulfilling party and government decisions on the development of rural farms, enterprises, organizations, establishments and also individual ancillary holdings. It is necessary to generalize the practice of party guidance of the new management organs: the agro-industrial associations.

Questions relating to party organizational work should be the object of thorough consideration at the meetings and conferences. The most serious attention should be paid to improving the level of political guidance by local party committees, perfecting the style and methods of their work, reducing superfluous conferences and meetings and unnecessary paperwork, and concentrating organizational work directly in the primary party links and labor collectives.

It is necessary, the decision stresses, to approach with particular responsibility, the formation of the election party aktiv and the nomination of politically mature and competent Communists with initiative, who possess organizational ability and high moral qualities and who have a feeling for what is new and are closely linked with the party masses and the working people.

The matter requires that the opinions of Communists and their proposals and remarks be taken into account in the decisions adopted and be brought to the notice of the appropriate party and economic organs, ministries, and departments.

The complete CPSU Central Committee decision is published in the party press.

INSTALLATION MINISTER ON 5-YEAR PLAN QUOTAS

LD141441 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0800 GMT on 14 August carries an unidentified correspondent's recorded interview with Boris Bakin, USSR minister of installation and special construction work, on the ministry's projects and their progress during the current 5-year plan period. Bakin first gives details of progress in various fields, pointing out that in the last 6 months 640,000 apartments have been constructed; the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod pipeline has been completed; and every month construction workers assimilate state capital investment worth R10 billion. After noting involvement in construction of Food Program projects, he says:

"However, we are not completely fulfilling our 5-year plan quotas for commissioning installations and capacities. Every year, over 70 percent of projects due forcommissioning are to be put into operation in the fourth quarter. This year, too, of 750 major projects in the construction of which the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work is taking part, 567, or 74 percent of the total, are due to be commissioned in the fourth quarter. This is very bad. We must decisively alter planning practice, and do all that is necessary to ensure that builders get a chance to work rhythmically, and bring into operation in each quarter at least one-fourth of the projects due for completion."

He says that other ministries must cooperate, and ends by saying: "Our labor productivity is up 3 percent over last year. That may seem quite good, but if you compare this figure with the quota for the whole 5-year plan, then we are lagging behind quite considerably. And this is mainly because there is still 34 percent manual labor employed in installation work."

NEW MOVIE SHOWS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR JUNE PLENUM

PM121032 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jul 83 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report" "The People's Lofty Trust"]

[Text] The showing of a new documentary film entitled "The People's Lofty Trust" has started in Moscow's movie theaters. It describes the fervent approval and unanimous support with which Soviet people welcomed the decisions and documents of the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum and the Eighth Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the election of CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yu.V. Andropov as chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The film was created at the Central Studio of Documentary Films.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE INTERVIEWED

LD091406 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 9 Aug 83

["On the Basis of Mutual Benefit" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, August 9, TASS -- In the first six months of this year the USSR's foreign turnover grew by seven percent, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, first deputy minister of foreign trade of the USSR, has said in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

In the first two years of the current five-year period, he went on to say, the foreign trade turnover of the USSR grew by 27 percent and amounted to 120,000 million roubles in 1982, with export running at 63,000 million roubles and import at 57,000 million roubles. The USSR now trades with 143 countries, mutual relations with most of them being regulated by intergovernmental agreements on trade, economic and industrial cooperation.

Like before, trade and economic cooperation with socialist countries develops at the highest rate, Gennadiy Zhuravlev went on to say. Last year, for example, the volume of trade with socialist countries grew by 12 percent as compared with 1981 and amounted to 65,000 million roubles. Their share in the USSR's aggregate goods' turnover increased up to almost 55 percent.

The USSR trades with 101 developing countries and with 79 of them on the basis of contractual relations, Zhuravlev pointed out. The volume of trade grows at a steady high rate. The Soviet Union consistently pursues a course towards mutually beneficial cooperation with states that have freed themsevles from colonial yoke.

Trade and economic relations with developed capitalist countries are maintained in recent years in a complex trade-and-political situation that has developed as a result of increased activity of aggressive forces, first of all, those in the USA. However, despite the artificially created difficulties, the volume and structure of the USSR's trade with Western countries have not only kept on but even gained in scope. In 1982 the USSR's trade turnover with that group of countries amounted to 38,000 million roubles, which was 20 percent more than in 1980. Capitalist countries now account for almost a third of the Soviet Union's aggregate foreign-trade turnover, Gennadiy Zhuravlev said.

RAILWAYS MINISTER COMMENTS ON SECTOR'S WORK

PM121101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Aug 83 First Edition p 1

[Interview with N.S. Konarev, USSR minister of railways, by correspondent G. Yastrebtsov: "Train Deliveries Will Be Made" -- date and place not specified]

[Text] On the eve of Soviet railroad workers' professional holiday, PRAVDA correspondent G. Yastrebtsov asked Railways Minister N.S. Konarev to describe how railraod workers are working in the third year of the 5-year plan.

The turning point for us, the minister said, was the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum. Among the large-scale tasks set by it was the task of radically improving the work of transport, primarily railroad transport. In carrying out that instruction, the sector's workers have achieved a perceptible improvement in work results.

The state plan for the dispatch of freight during the first 7 months of 1983 was overfulfilled by 27 million metric tons and the increase in freight carriage in comparison with the corresponding period last year was 70 million metric tons. The delivery to consumers of metal, oil, ore, and agro-industrial complex freight is proceeding successfully. The shipment of the new crop of grain and other agricultural output has begun in a well organized way. The passenger transport plan is being fulfilled.

However, we are aware that this is just the beginning. There is still very much work ahead. The early successes must be consolidated and increased. To date, the plan is still not being fulfilled for the entire products list, better use should be made of rolling stock and other technical facilities, and the standard of passenger service must be raised.

Take freight shipment: The immediate tasks is to dispatch at least 1.78 billion tons of freight in the second half of the year, that is, to increase shipments for the year as a whole by 100 million tons. It is undoubtedly a complex task, but it can be fulfilled. We are planning to accelerate the turnaround of freight cars and to eliminate the railways' shipment backlog.

Railroad workers have the requisite experience. On the Moscow, North Caucasus, Tselin and some other railroads, for example, it is no longer surprising to see trains with weights of 6,000-10,000 metric tons. That experience must be broadly disseminated. Electrification, the introduction of the automatic blocking system [avtoblokirovka] and of centralized traffic control, the development of stations, and the extension of routes provide a tremendous reserve for increasing the capacity of the main lines. We are going to work energetically to strengthen the locomotive, freight car, and trade repair base and to better utilize automatic equipment and computers.

As life shows, there is considerable potential in improving labor organization.

The sector is implementing a package of measures aimed at increasing people's prosperity and improving their working and everyday living conditions. Thus railroad workers' average monthly earnings have increased by 6.1 percent in the past 2 and 1/2 years. Some 57 percent more housing for railroad workers and their families was commissioned in the first half of 1983 than for the same period last year.

BRIEFS

OIL IN KOMI ASSR AREA -- The geologists' predictions of oil deposits in the area of the Komi ASSR beyond the Arctic Circle have been confirmed by drillers of the Usinsk oil and gas prospecting expedition. Industrial flows of raw material have been obtained at four new structures. The deposits are situated close to the Usinsk oil and gas extraction complex and the Usinsk-Ukhta-Yaroslavl pipeline. This will make it possible to bring them into industrial operation quickly and without great expense. [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0600 GMT 14 Aug 83 LD]

FOOD PROGRAM, AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

LD131220 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 12 Aug 83

["English transcript" of interview with Vladimir Gurevich, NOVOSTI economics writer, by Nikolay Borin and Doris Maksina -- transcript read live by Nikolay Borin, Doris Maksina and unidentified third person]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Next we have an English transcript from the studio of a question and answer session with Vladimir Gurevich, economics writer with the NOVOSTI press agency in Moscow. And the topic is Soviet agriculture, principally because agriculture has come under heavy fire from the Western news media and particularly since the Food Program was launched. To start the ball rolling, what is the Food Program all about? Here is Nikolay Borin:

[Begin recording] [Borin] The fact that it's called a food program has led to some misunderstanding abroad of the goals the Soviet Union set in agriculture. We have no such food problem as faced this country in [word indistinct] winters or during World War II. [Word indistinct] the nation suffered from a food shortage. Now the purpose is to improve the nation's diet. The Soviet Union harvests more wheat than any other country Even in bad years, one-fourth of the harvest is enough to meet the nation's needs in food grain, but much of the harvest has to go to feed livestock because corn, soya, and other grains that most countries use for feed are not raised in large enough quantities. The Food Program is largely intended to solve the problem of feed for livestock.

[Maksina] Meanwhile, the Soviet Union imports feed grain; is that it?

[Borin] Yes, and the Food Program does not rule out grain purchases in the future. Many countries have much more favorable conditions for farming. We have no intention of giving up the imports altogether, but we do plan to gradually reduce them. Naturally we'll reduce them first of all in the countries that show a tendency to use trade for political blackmail and cannot be relied on.

[Maksina] What sort of year for agriculture was last year, Nikolay?

[Borin] Unfortunately 1982 was the fourth year in a row with bad weather conditions. This time there was no drought, but there were frosts when there shouldn't have been, and there was too much rain, not enough sunshine. So the farms made a pretty good showing.

[Maksina] The authorities tell us that planning is difficult in Soviet agriculture because of the weather, which is what you mention Nikolay. In some cases the problem is drought, or there is too much rain in the summer or the winter is late and there's little snow. Could you comment briefly on the importance of this factor, Vladimir?

[Gurevich] Yes. When we talk about the weather in connection with farming in the Soviet Union, we are accused of using this factor too often as an excuse. But we must always keep the weather in mind, because nearly every year it forces us to make major adjustments in our agricultural plans.

[Borin] The concept of bioclimatic potential includes everything, the rainfall, type of land and so on.

[Maksina] The Soviet Union evidently spends huge amounts on agriculture.

[Borin] Yes; one-third of all its capital investigations [as heard] are in farming. But here we shouldn't forget that agricultural (?planning) is not the only economic matter [as heard]. In even the worst years Soviet farmers do not go bankrupt because they always get high subsidies from the state for their losses; and second, the prices in stores do not change, they have been stable for decades.

Farm development varies and overall is not satisfactory. Losses occur in transportation and storage. Roads in the countryside are generally inferior. We do not have enough refrigeration. Don't forget that because the country is so large and farms are in different climatic zones food has to be transported over long distances. The resulting losses are grave and this is what the Food Program has set out to eliminate.

[Gurevich] In the past the Soviet people earned less, their living standards were lower and they consumed less. Now living standards have risen such that the current supply of food products on the market is not satisfactory to the people and the government. Consequently the Food Program we are discussing was devised to eliminate the problem.

[Maksima] Well, thank you very much for that explanation. Here we end this program.

SEMINAR REVIEWS AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

PM131919 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 29 Jul 83 p 2

[R. Ivanova article: "All-Union Seminar"]

[Text] An all-union seminar of leaders of scientific institutions of the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences [VASKHNIL], the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, and union republic ministries of agriculture was held recently at the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Arable Farming (Dotnuva). Its participants discussed questions connected with improving the planning and coordination of research work in the agricultural sphere and the administration of scientific collectives.

The report by VASKHNIL First Vice President A.A. Nikonov and the speeches by VASKHNIL Academicians T.N. Kulakovskaya and V.I. Nazarenko, VASKHNIL corresponding members A.I. Budvitis, V.G. Mineyev and K.V. Novozhilov, and other scientists notes that the effectiveness of many institutes' work still does not meet present-day requirements because of a narrowness of theme, the duplication and incomplete nature of research, and the low standard of management of scientific ollectives. Thus the seminar's main attention was devoted to seeking ways and methods of radically improving the quality of the management of scientific collectives' activity and of enhancing their role in accelerating scientific and technical progress.

With great interest the seminar participants acquainted themselves with the work experience of the Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Arable Farming, whose research is widely used on the republic's kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

RAILWAYS MINISTRY REPORTS ON GRAIN TRANSPORT

LD130721 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Summary] Vladimir Mikhaylenko reports from the control room of the Ministry of Railways on the railway grain routes. He says mass transport of grain on the railways started in mid-July, with the railwaymen of the Ukraine and north Caucasus being the first to start this work. Now, as Department of Transportation of Agricultural Produce head Nikolay Vasilyevich (Filin) has pointed out, 12 railways are transporting grain. Filin says the time of mass transportation of grain and other agricultural produce has arrived.

"On the whole, we are exceeding the plan for grain transport," (Filin) says. "The first 10 days has passed and so far there has not been a single day, even off-days, Saturday and Sunday, when loading has not exceeded the plan, and usually we have loading exceeding the plan figures amounting to 300 railcars a day." The north Caucasus railway has been loading the most grain, Filin says. This region and the southeast, Volga and (?Kuybyshev) railways daily load over 1,000 carloads of grain. The Volga railway has started mass transport of melons and vegetables from Astrakhan Oblast. Salt is also being transported, for it is needed for salting vegetables. In September mass grain transport will start from the Virgin Lands railway and there will be more transport on the south Urals railway.

CSA NOTES PROGRESS IN FEED PLAN FULFILLMENT

LD130225 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] According to data of the USSR Central Statistical Administration, collective and state farms have now laid in almost 59 million metric tons of hay. Never before has so much hay been laid in. In Lithuania the plan has been overfulfilled by 36 percent. Farms of Belorussia, Lithuania, Estonia have met their targets.

Comrade Olyashev, head of the main directorate of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, told our correspondent: "A large role in the improved organization of laying in of feed crops was played by the creation of specialized units, teams, and detachments and harvesting-transport complexes, working according to the team contracting method."

Despite mass grain harvesting, the pace of laying in feed is growing. The plan for producing haylage has been fulfilled by 11 union republics; silage making has begun in the Ukraine, Moldavia, and in the south of the RSFSR. Today detachments of youth are leaving towns for subbotnik and voskresnik [Saturday and Sunday voluntary] work. The young lads and girls will take part in haying and laying in of haylage, silage and other fodder crops.

ACTIVITIES OF ORBITAL MISSION REPORTED

LD121018 Moscow TASS in English 0922 GMT 12 Aug 83

[Text] Moscow, August 12, TASS -- TASS special correspondent Aleksander Romanov reports from Mission Control Centre: The cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Aleksandr Aleksandrov have been aloft in their orbital complex Soyuz T-9 - Salyut-7-Cosmos-1443 for forty-five days. Viktor Blagov, deputy head of the mission, said that the cosmonauts completed unloading the Cosmos spacecraft, having moved from the craft to the station modules more than three tons of cargo of nearly 600 titles, and then loaded the Cosmos-1443 return module.

Engineer Blagov stressed the importance of research conducted by the space crew for the national economies of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Over the past days, he said, the cosmonauts Lyakhov and Aleksandrov took pictures of more than 500 million square kilometres of the earth's surface. Blagov praised the performance of instruments designed by specialists from the German Democratic Republic and Bulgaria. Speaking about new technical equipment whose testing was started at the orbital complex, Blagov singled out an "elektrotopograf." This instrument is designed for studying the dynamics of the effect of space factors -- radiation, micrometeors and drops of temperature -- on construction materials used to build spacecraft, said one of the designers, Aleksandr Kravtsov, from the Institute of Physics at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Knowledge of this effect is extremely important for the production of new materials necessary for building orbital and inter-planetary stations whose service life in space would be tens of years. The new installation "elektrotopograf" is used in space exploration for the first time. It features high sensitivity. The instrument is capable of registering minutest flaws -- pores, cracks on various inclusions, sized less than one-tenth of a micron -- on special film. According to the cosmonauts, the new instrument is very handy since it enables the crew to investigate the experimental samples in outer space without leaving the station.

Craft Separates From Complex

LD141533 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1445 GMT 14 Aug 83

[Text] Flight Control Center, 14 Aug (TASS) -- Today, at 1804 Moscow time [1404 GMT] after completion of the joint flight program, the separation of the Soviet Cosmos-1443 craft from the Salyut-7/Soyuz T-9 orbital complex was carried out. The undocking process and the departure of the craft was controlled by Cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Aleksandr Alensandrov. The Cosmos-1443 craft docked with the Salyut-7 station on March 10 1983. During their joint flight, tests on on-board systems, design units, and elements of future spacecraft, and development of control methods for large-scale complexes were conducted. Several corrections were made to the trajectory of the manned complex by means of the Cosmos-1443 engine unit. The Cosmos-1443 spacecraft delivered to orbit about 3 metric tonnes of cargo of various kinds, essential for the functioning of the Salyut-7 station and for scientific research and experiments.

Cosmonauts Vladimir Lyakhov and Aleksandr Aleksandrov are completing their 7th week in flight. Today's work program includes research into the parameters of the atmosphere directly surrounding the station, in which the Astra-1 mass spectrometer will be used; medical checks on the crew; and physical exercise on the exercise bike and running track. According to telemetric information the on-board systems of the Salyut-7/ Soyuz T-9 manned complex and the Cosmos-1443 spacefraft are working normally.